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WEEKLY WORLD NEWS®
April 5, 2004

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3-YEAR-OLD ART PRIZE

– with pudding smudges she left on a tablecloth!

A 3-YEAR-OLD girl has won Europe's most prestigious art prize — for brown smudges she left on a tablecloth after eating chocolate pudding!

Ecstatic critics are hailing the abstract artwork created by tiny Sophie Bisset as "pure genius" and "a priceless masterpiece of indescribable power."

"This abstract work is profoundly moving and engages both the intellect and the senses on many levels," enthuses museum curator Pierre DeCuir, a member of the five-judge panel.

"It combines a joyous sense of caprice with an ironic social commentary that is extraordinarily sophisticated in one so young.

"I believe we are looking at the handiwork of the next Miro or Picasso."

The abstract image, made at the breakfast table by the tyke in less than 45 seconds, earned Sophie the coveted Gauguin Prize, named for the famed post-Impressionist painter. As well as a gold trophy, first prize comes with a cash award of 50,000 euros, or $61,102 in American money.

At least 800 artists from 11 European nations competed in the contest — and some are incensed that a child with no art training beat them.

"It would be bad enough if this 'masterpiece' had been created with finger paints or crayons,"

"But this wasn't even done on purpose. To give such a prestigious award to a toddler who is still trying to learn what color must be added to yellow to make green is an insult to every true artist."

Sophie's mother, Daniella, admits she never recognized her daughter's remarkable artistic ability until that fateful lunch on January 5.

"Sophie had never shown much interest in drawing or any of that," reveals Daniella, 28. "I'd given her crayons when she was smaller and she either broke them in half or tried to eat the tips."

That day, the rug rat was being a very picky eater and refused to eat anything but the dessert.

"When I saw that she'd made a mess of the tablecloth, I scolded her at first," Daniella recalls. "Then I noticed the pattern Sophie had made with her dirty hands and thought it was quite striking.

"I showed it to my husband, who's very interested in art, and he agreed."

The couple cut out the pudding-smeared section of tablecloth and framed it. When their church held a charity art contest, they entered it on a whim — and to their surprise and bemusement, it won.

"An art critic who belongs to our church was so impressed that he suggested we enter it in the Gauguin contest," says proud papa Jean-Francois, 29.

When the winner of the competition was announced in early March, the couple was astounded.

"Being told you've sired an artistic genius takes a while to get used to," says Jean-Francois, who repairs pianos for a living.

WINS PRESTIGIOUS

AT THE ripe old age of 3, little Sophie Bisset didn't intend to become a full-time artist — but after she won Europe's prestigious Gauguin Prize with her *Pudding Smudge*, above, her work is in high demand.

and the darling of the French press. Prestigious art academies are competing for her enrollment, offering full tuition. And a top gallery has commissioned Sophie to create seven more pudding pieces.

"We already have clients lined up who are willing to pay millions for her work," says gallery owner Henri St. Germain.

"The contest judges are recommending that her original pudding piece be hung in a place of honor in the Louvre, where other great masterpieces including the *Mona Lisa* are on display."

Not everyone is convinced Sophie is a genius. An American art critic is still shaking his head over the judges' decision.

"I suppose that in a country where Jerry Lewis is hailed as a genius, nothing should surprise us," he says.

Little Sophie isn't concerned about the controversy. When asked what she thinks about when she

NEW BOOK OF WEE-WEES!

YOU might think that one Norwegian guy's manhood is pretty much like the next, but nothing could be further from the truth. And to prove it, a prominent Norwegian sexpert is compiling a book that illustrates the variety of his countrymen's wee-wees!

will feature 80 to 100 photographs of trouser trouts of all shapes and sizes. And surprisingly, the eye-popping tome's target audience is straight men.

"Heterosexual men have no one to compare their penises with," Dr. Benestad explained in an interview.

"During my 18 years as a sexologist, I have answered all kinds of questions relating to penises. Many think theirs is either too small or

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Here, hot off the wire, are the freshest news stories from around the globe!

'MARK OF THE BEAST' IS WRONG!

EMBARRASSED theologians within the Catholic Church say they've been wrong for centuries about the "mark of the beast:" It's not 666, but 999!

"All this time we've been reading it upside down," says a highly placed Vatican administrator. "The 666 turns out to be a sign of goodness and divinity, not a mark signifying possession by the evil one."

He says church documents will be revised and annotated with the correction. But Pope John Paul II does not plan to issue a formal statement or apologize to anyone who has been branded as a Satanic stooge for having 666 appear on their body or signified in their name.

"It was an honest mistake," he says.

SPRINGSTEEN TUNES USED IN 'TORTURE'

SUSPECTED terrorists are being subjected to horrible torture at the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, complains a prisoner who's been released: He says he was forced to listen to Bruce Springsteen!

"All day they blared patriotic music. It was 'Born in the U.S.A.,' " says ex-inmate Hamed Abderrahman Ahmad, a Spaniard who denies any involvement with terrorist activity.

Hamed also says Guantanamo prison cells are tiny and cramped, and the heat on the tropical island is oppressive.

"We had to put wet towels on our heads to be able to bear the heat and not hear the music," he says.

GUEST'S GRENADE KILLS BRIDE

A GRENADE exploded at a wedding reception in Ethiopia, killing the bride and three guests. But it wasn't a terrorist attack — one of the guests had the miniature bomb hanging from his belt while dancing at the party!

The Ethiopia News Agency reports that the grenade fell from the man's belt during a group dance at the ceremony in Hamyao Sera, a farming community in a remote section of eastern Ethiopia.

Ethiopians are required to have a license to own grenades and other firearms. Police used the wedding

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS READERS ...

Sound Off!

Tell us what YOU think! Write to: Sound Off, c/o Weekly World News, P.O. Box 3036, Boca Raton, FL 33431-0936

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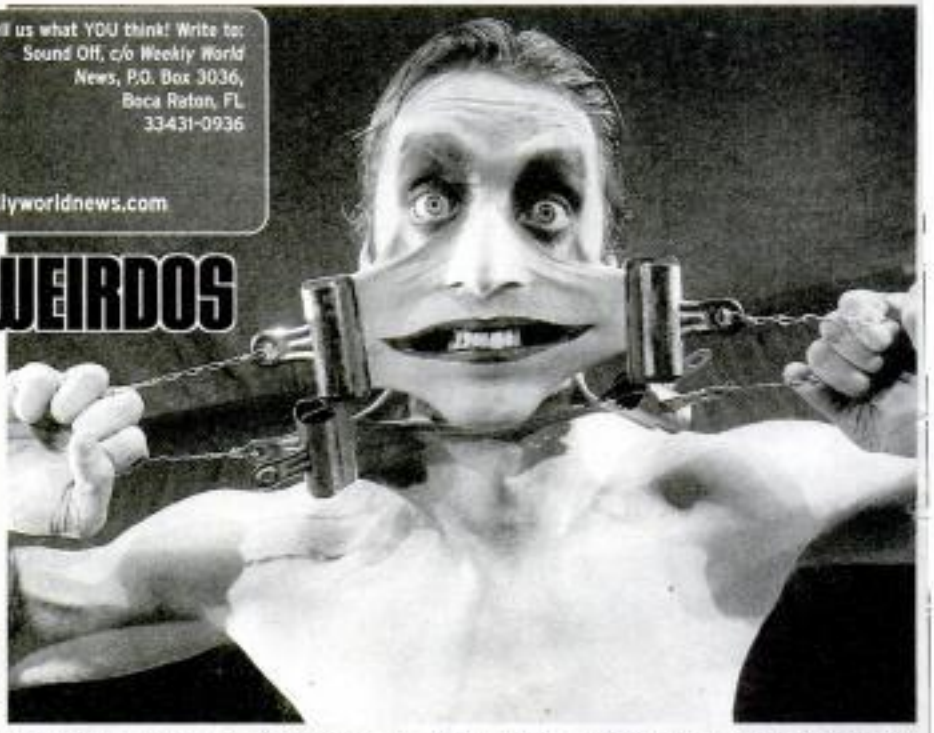

FREAKS, GEEKS & WEIRDOS WAS AMUSING & JUST A LITTLE BIT NAUSEATING TO BOOT! THANKS!

DEAR EDITOR: I spent several minutes looking through your "Freaks, Geeks and Weirdos" section in the March 15, 2004, issue, but try as I might, I couldn't find a picture of Michael Jackson! Looks like you dropped the ball there! Seriously, it was a great article. Amazing, amusing and just a little bit nauseating to boot! Thanks!

— Jerry P., Cedar Ridge, Ark.

★ ★ ★

Dear Editor: I'm appalled over the matter of the murdered Bigfoot (March 2, 2004). I believe the officers of the law who committed this horrible act should be held accountable.

These Bigfoots are God's creatures. They have as much right to dwell on this Earth as any other animal God made. Who do these lawmen think they are, anyhow? What right did they have to kill a mother in front of her child?

I happen to know some Bigfoots. And I sure won't tell anyone where they are by any means! If I could make friends with them, I would consider it a great honor.

— Susan P., Durhamville, N.Y.

★ ★ ★

Dear Editor: My squad and I are in Iraq. We have been reading about Bat Boy, Osama, Saddam and the shaved ape baby, and we were wondering if the ape baby and Bat Boy were born of the same mother. If so, are they working together and not telling us? If not, maybe they should be friends. You guys should try to arrange a meeting.

— David M., Iraq

David, Bat Boy is definitely in no way related to any of the shaved ape babies. As for a meeting, it seems unlikely, since Bat Boy is notoriously difficult to pin down, but you never know.

★ ★ ★

Dear Editor: After reading your chilling story about Satan's Witnesses going door to door and harassing people (March 15, 2004), I got pretty paranoid.

In fact, yesterday, after somebody rang the doorbell, I quickly opened the door and hit the guy over the head with a frying pan, knocking him out cold.

It turned out to be a teenager selling magazine subscriptions to raise money for his school to build an annex for its library.

Unfortunately, when the cops arrived later they weren't very sympathetic about my fear of Satan's Witnesses, and it looks like I could be charged with assault if the kid decides to press charges. Oh well. I guess you just can't win.

— Bertha K., Dayton, Ohio

★ ★ ★

Dear Editor: I read with interest your article about the woman who got stopped at the airport when a metal detector was set off by her chastity belt (March 15, 2004).

I wear a leather chastity belt precisely to avoid such embarrassing situations, and I strongly recommend this type of belt to all your readers.

— Robin F., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Letter of the Week

Dear Editor:

I can't say I'm too happy about that article you ran concerning the planned strike of millions of housewives on April 15 (March, 15, 2004). My wife came across the story and now

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THE ULTIMATE SHOESHINE

By HUBERT HARRELL
Correspondent

Topless gal cleans up – with her butt!

HEINIE SHINES: Lacey Depruett butt-buffs shoes to a sparkling finish.

LUSCIOUS Lacey Depruett is making money hand over fist as America's only topless shoeshine girl!

The former Watermelon Queen has only been in business for six months. And she's already raking in a cool $5,000 a week from drooling men who shell out $100 just to get buffed off with — what else? — the 36-24-36 cutie's faux sheepskin bikini bottom.

"Best shine I ever had," says a man who gave his name as "John Q. Public" to, as he put it, "keep the peace at home."

"That little filly certainly knows what she's doing. And there's nothing dirty or nasty about it, either.

"She makes topless shoe shining seem like the most natural thing in the world."

Depruett, 26, says the idea of shining shoes in the buff "just occurred to me" after she lost her job selling furniture last August.

Determined to avoid government assistance, she took her $1,375 life savings and rented a small office near the Los Angeles International Airport.

She also got a license that allows her to dance nude, although she admits, "I can't dance my way out of a paper bag. I just didn't want to get in trouble, and I figured the license would cover me.

"A friend made me a sign that says, 'Lacey's Topless Shoeshine Boutique.'

"And I told some cabbie friends of mine to spread the word to guys flying into the airport that if they needed their shoes spiffed up, this is the place to come.

"Business was slow at first, but pretty soon I had more customers than I could handle.

"I like shining shoes, but I can't stay down there on my knees wiggling and jiggling all day long. Each shine takes about 15 minutes. Ten customers a day is enough for me.

"After that, I just want to go home and put my feet up in front of the TV or relax in a hot tub with incense and candles burning and New Age music playing on the stereo."

Cops say they've had no trouble from Depruett — and they don't expect to.

"We always send a couple of undercover guys to these places just to check things out," says one vice detective.

"One of our men tried to get her to do a 'little something' extra, and she not only refused to do it, she slapped him — and called 911."

Just how long Depruett will stay in the nude shoeshine business remains to be seen.

"I'm making a lot of money, but I don't think I'll do this forever," she says. "I might just save enough to open a little coffee shop somewhere. And, no, it won't be a nude coffee shop.

"One spill and I could get scalded in places I don't even want to think about."

JUNGLE FEVER!

IT'S A jungle out there — and with this wild leopard-spot bikini, it looks like Debra is dressed and ready for it. Debra really does like to be where the action is, and she's had plenty in her young life. The California cutie is a professional dancer and former NFL cheerleader, who also has worked as a licensed cosmetologist and in a child-care center for elementary school children. She enjoys camping, being at the beach — anything outdoors. At 5 feet 6 inches tall and 120 pounds, she measures 34B-24-

JESTERS were around long before the Middle Ages. A pygmy clown performed as a jester in the court of Pharaoh Dadkeri-Assi during Egypt's Fifth Dynasty about 2500 B.C., experts say.

CHRIST'S FORGOTTEN 13th APOSTLE WAS AN IDIOT!

By BRETT ANNISTON/Correspondent

JESUS had a 13th apostle who was edited out of the Bible — because he was an obnoxious jerk, claims a maverick researcher.

"I have uncovered ancient documents that prove the original versions of all four gospels featured a man named Daryll, a 13th apostle who was a constant embarrassment to Jesus," says British historian Dr. Chad Norton-Chestwell.

"He was rather like a drunken guest at a party who clowns around thinking he's being funny, when he's really just annoying everyone.

"At the Sermon on the Mount, for instance, Daryll showed up smashed and actually heckled Jesus, shouting things like 'Borrr-ing!'

"On Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Daryll ruined the dignity of the occasion by mooning the crowd. He then turned to Jesus and remarked, 'How's that for turning the other cheek?' Christ had to stop several of His followers from beating the man senseless.

He heckled Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount — and called Him a lousy carpenter

THE apostles begged Jesus to give Daryll the heave-ho.

"The life and death of our Lord is not a laughing matter," blasts a Baptist theologian.

But Dr. Norton-Chestwell notes that in the ancient parchments — which turned up in a chest stolen from the Vatican in 1961 — Jesus Himself occasionally chuckled at the buffoon's antics.

"The modern church has suppressed this material because the idea of a Christ with a sense of humor doesn't fit in with their world view," he says.

According to the original version of the gospels, Daryll was a jester in the court of the Emperor Nero until he pulled an unspecified prank that wasn't enough for all the guests? Well, guess why they ran out?

"The other 12 apostles constantly urged Christ to give Daryll the heave-ho, but Jesus being who He was, He could only forgive the idiot."

All references to the airhead apostle were excised in the 4th century, when Christian patriarchs finalized the New Testament.

"The church fathers felt that Daryll detracted from the solemnity of the text," explains the researcher.

Coming at a time when Christians are packing movie theaters to view Mel Gibson's grim flick *The Passion*

jester in Christ's circle as well.

"Jesus kept Daryll around to remind His followers not to take themselves too seriously," he says. "Remember, these fellows could be awfully self-important, particularly Peter.

"One time a chair Matthew was sitting in collapsed under him. Without skipping a beat, Daryll turned to Jesus and said, 'My Lord, you may be the son of God, but you're one lousy carpenter.'

"The other apostles were aghast, but Jesus laughed."

Daryll wouldn't keep his mouth shut even during the performance of dazzling miracles. When Lazarus is brought back from the dead, the apostle is described as holding his nose and saying, "The man still stinketh."

Dr. Norton-Chestwell reveals: "At the Last Supper, he started a food fight."

Yet at Christ's crucifixion, it was Daryll alone whom He called to be at His side.

"Daryll stayed at the foot of the cross, making light of the situation

PREGNANT MOM BEGS *WEEKLY WORLD NEWS* FOR HELP:

'Will the father of my baby please step forward?'

WHO'S THE DADDY? Brenda Lintern wants to find the father of her unborn child — and asks the big-hearted editors at *WWN* to start the search.

A 27-YEAR-OLD gal who says she had a little too much to drink at a party in Atlanta and then "woke up pregnant" wants the father of her baby to fess up — "so our baby will have a name."

"I make $275 a week as a waitress and I can't support this child by myself," Brenda Lintern says in an appeal to *Weekly World News* that even she describes as "a long shot."

"I'm hoping and praying the father will come forward and accept his responsibility and do the right thing. I let him take advantage of me when I got tipsy.

"Now it's time to come out of the shadows and tell both me and the world, 'The baby you're carrying is mine.'"

Lintern says the father of the child "is going to have to help me raise the child" because she has no family and is already struggling to make ends meet.

To make matters worse, members of her close-knit fundamentalist church have shunned her ever since she started showing and word leaked out that the identity of the baby's father is a mystery.

"I can barely even remember the party that got me in trouble," says Lintern. "A girl I work with invited me to go with her after she heard about it from a friend.

"We both recall that there were at least 20 unattached men having a good time.

NONE of the cowboys that Brenda contacted fessed up to being the mystery man who impregnated her.

dancing and singing and carrying on, just having a good old time."

The attractive young woman says several men asked her to dance — and she did. In fact, the last thing she remembers before waking up nude in a strange bed is cutting the rug to the country classic, "Achy Breaky Heart."

"It seems like the guy I went to bed with was wearing a cowboy hat," she says. "But all the men at the party were wearing cowboy hats.

"I missed my period two weeks later. Then I picked up a pregnancy kit at the supermarket and confirmed the worst.

"I know the man at the party is the father. Before him, I hadn't been with anyone since August."

The couple who threw the party say it was an open house and they know fewer than half of the 100 people who attended. They also say they've "made quite a few telephone calls and none of the men we are acquainted with" will

other guys could have done the deed, but there's no way to get in touch with them because nobody knows how to find them.

In her public appeal for the father of the baby to step forward, Lintern promises to be "a good wife and a good mother."

"I'm a good cook and very loyal," she adds. "And I'm not one of these high-maintenance women."

"Just give me a good man who loves and appreciates a good woman and I'll follow him anywhere and do anything he wants without complaining.

"I'll even fetch his beers and the remote so he doesn't have to move from his easy chair after a long day at work. And if he doesn't want to marry me, then we can do the live-in thing.

"But I'm not the only benefit he can look forward to. He'll also get to help raise his child and be the kind of good daddy that every little girl and boy needs. If that's not

Did you know?

- **The FDA advises pregnant women to avoid soft cheeses, including queso blanco, feta, Brie, Camembert and blue-veined cheeses such as Roquefort. Certain soft cheeses can carry the bacterium listeria, which poses a risk to an unborn child.**
- **A woman's arthritis pains will almost always disappear as soon as she becomes pregnant.**
- **Female mosquitoes drink blood while they are pregnant in order to nourish their eggs.**
- **Sharks can be dangerous even before they are born. Scientist Stewart Springer was bitten by a**

BAT BOY TO BE KNIGHTED

By MICHAEL CHIRON
Correspondent

ON his last visit with Her Majesty, Bat Boy could hardly contain his enthusiasm when told he was in line to be knighted.

'Arise, Sir Bat Boy!'

QUEEN Elizabeth is reportedly set to knight Bat Boy after the intrepid freak of nature saved a British army patrol in Iraq!

According to official sources, the pointy-eared hero sniffed out an ambush laid by terrorists and warned the five soldiers in the nick of time.

The recommendation for Bat Boy's knighthood was made by a top British commander and reads in part:

"Showing total disregard for his own safety, Bat Boy engaged the terrorists in a small-arms firefight. Despite being wounded, Bat Boy then ran three miles and warned an army patrol of the terrorist force. The enemy fighters were later attacked by gunships and sustained heavy casualties."

The knighting ceremony is expected to take place at Buckingham Palace in early August, says a royal source.

But not every Brit is tossing up his bowler hat at the news. Some bluebloods are incensed that the rare honor is being bestowed on the half-human, half-bat mutant.

"It's bad enough that we now see knights made of working-class actors like Michael Caine, who speaks with a cockney accent

House of Lords. "It's quite another matter to welcome into the company of nobles a grunting, savage creature that is not even fully human.

"This little monster is unpredictable and dangerous. Who knows what will happen when Her Majesty tries to knight him? He may feel threatened by the sword, snatch it from her hands and run her through."

But high-ranking government officials say knighthood for the plucky youth is almost certain.

"Saving that patrol is only the latest contribution Bat Boy has made," says a source close to British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw. "His missions for the U.S. are top secret, but it's known his superior sense of smell was used to track down Saddam Hussein.

"Also, rumor has it that he recently unearthed evidence of weapons of mass destruction while looking for a cool cave to sleep in one night. This will help Prime Minister Tony Blair save face after the failure to find WMDs in Iraq.

ing Queen Elizabeth to proceed with the knighthood."

Bat Boy will likely be named a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, or KBE, the title typically given to non-Britons.

Because he's an American, Bat Boy should not actually be addressed as "Sir," but will be permitted to put the letters KBE after his name.

The pint-sized hero isn't the first Yank to receive the honor. Other distinguished Americans who've been knighted include former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, evangelist Billy Graham and former President Reagan. And, it was recently announced, megabucks computer geek Bill Gates has earned a knighthood as well.

According to custom, the recommendation will be reviewed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, before being passed on to the Queen.

Palace insiders say that pressure to knight Bat Boy — who is more popular in British opinion polls than Prince Charles — will be impossible

ure that we look forward to meeting this peculiar individual in person," she reportedly told an aide. "But his service to the realm must be rewarded."

Editor's note: *As Weekly World News* went to press, we learned that, in a recent meeting with the queen, Bat Boy attempted to bite the monarch

LAWYER: 'I'LL MAKE A FORTUNE FROM GAY DIVORCES'

The floodgates will soon open as more and more same-sex couples untie the knot!

By MAGGIE DOWD
Correspondent

WHILE MILLIONS of giddy gay couples stand in line to get hitched and live happily ever after, attorney Arnold Beckermand is licking his chops — just waiting for them to divorce.

That's because he's convinced gay marriages will be no happier and have no more staying power than straight marriages, a staggering half of which end in what he calls "extremely lucrative bust-ups."

"It's all peaches and cream now, but just you wait — the Big D looms large," says the attorney from San Francisco, who made a name for himself chasing ambulances but now calls himself a specialist in gay divorce.

"Can you imagine two 40-year-old men going through a midlife crisis in the same house?

"Or two lesbians bawling their eyes out and hot-flashing all over the place with the hot, dank breath of menopause breathing down their necks?

"Some marriages are made in Heaven, and I'm sure a lot of gay marriages will endure no matter what. But you can bet your bottom dollar that half of them are going straight down the tubes.

"That where I come in."

Beckermand's critics — and there are a lot of them — are outraged that he takes such a cynical view of same-sex marriages.

Other attorneys aren't real happy with him either, saying Beckermand is one of a shameful breed of "gutter lawyers" who give all barristers a bad name.

"First he chases ambulances, and now he's chasing newlyweds," fumes one counselor. "There's certainly nothing wrong with representing gay clients — their money is as good as anyone's.

"But Beckermand isn't even giving them a chance to find happiness. He's stomping on their hopes and dreams like a drunk at a doll show. He's an embarrassment to our profession."

Controversy notwithstanding, the out-front pettifogger does have his supporters.

JUST like straight marriages, Beckermand figures, half of gay unions are destined to go down in flaming failure. And he'll be there to cash in on the ashes.

LAWYER Arnold Beckermand is getting ready to chase the gold at the end of the gay rainbow.

"As much as I'd like to believe my marriage will last forever, I know there's a chance it won't," says a 22-year-old gay hunk who just tied the knot with a gay ex-sea captain 44 years his senior.

"And if something doesn't work out, it's comforting to know there are attorneys who'll be there to protect my interests.

"That's one of the reasons we gays want our marriages to be sanctioned by the state. A big part of what we're looking for is equal protection under the law."

Beckermand — who makes a point of saying that he's "bi-curious" but not gay — says he'll "fight the good fight regardless of naysayers who think I'm somehow being unethical.

"When gay marriages shatter in heartbreak, I'll help them pick up the pieces," he explains. "When gay couples go their separate ways, I'll be there to make sure the pie is sliced into three equal pieces — one each for the three of us."

LESBIAN break-ups will be even more emotional than straight splits, Beckermand predicts, with twice the hormones raging.

The Adventures of BAT BOY! by P. Bagge '04

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS APRIL

Weekly World News EXCLUSIVE:

INTERVIEW WITH A BIGFOOT

Belgian naturalist and Bigfoot researcher Dr. Henri Tatou

JACQUES, who bears a striking resemblance to Harry from *Harry and the Hendersons* told us his people are shy and fearful of human contact.

. . . He tells of his people's quest for Twinkies & why they fear Halle Berry

By PETE DONOHUE/*Correspondent*
Interview by Mitchell Berg

THEY have long been seen, spoken of, and speculated about. Recently, two were shot dead by police in Montana. But the legendary creature known as Bigfoot has never been known to communicate with humankind — until now.

When Belgian naturalist and longtime Bigfoot researcher Dr. Henri Tatou first contacted *Weekly World News* claiming he could actually set up an interview with a Bigfoot, we were of course skeptical.

But Dr. Tatou has impeccable credentials and a sterling reputation in his field, and ultimately we were persuaded to send a reporter to a thickly forested area in Washington State where Dr. Tatou claimed to have had repeated contact with a 7-foot, 3-inch tall Bigfoot he had dubbed Jacques, after a particularly hirsute uncle.

Says reporter Mitchell Berg: "Early on the morning of Saturday, February 21, Dr. Tatou and I made our way into Capitol State Forest. The intense cold and thick carpet of snow on the rough terrain made for a difficult hike, and I dearly hoped the hardship would end up being worth it. As it turned out, it was.

"Shortly before noon, we arrived at a small clearing. 'This is the place,' said Dr. Tatou. He then looked up and gave three sharp, loud whistles in short succession. He did this every few minutes for about a quarter of an hour, when I was suddenly astounded by the appearance of a huge, hairy, humanoid figure that thrashed its way through the nearby underbrush and stood before us."

HOSTESS TWINKIES

Dr. Tatou had been meeting with Jacques for several months, and had quickly taught him sign language. "These creatures are highly intelligent but lack a proper larynx, so they cannot really speak," said the naturalist. "Ask Jacques your questions, and I will act as interpreter."

Here is the text of the conversation:

WWN: We call your people "Bigfoot," but how do you refer to yourselves?

Jacques: We speak mainly with our hands, so when we refer to ourselves, we use our signs for "happy" and "forest," so you would call us the Happy Forest People. We live at one with God and nature, and so we are quite content.

WWN: How do your people manage to keep yourselves hidden from humans so well?

Jacques: We primarily exist in another world, a different reality, you might say. Only occasionally do we venture into your world.

WWN: How do you do that?

Jacques: I cannot tell you. It is not meant for humans to know.

WWN: Why do you come to our world?

Jacques: Various reasons. Sometimes to forage, sometimes to escape predators in our world, sometimes to search for Hostess Twinkies.

WWN: You like Twinkies?

Jacques: Yes. They are delicious. I have been to your supermarkets and seen them. I have also seen your people, and I understand why they fear us. We are obliged to visit yours.

WWN: Do you know about the Bigfoots who were killed recently by police in Montana?

Jacques: Yes. We forgive your people, because we know you act out of ignorance. Still, these are terrible crimes. Humans must learn to turn away from their violent tendencies, or they will never advance spiritually.

WWN: Do you pay attention to current events in the world of humans?

Jacques: Yes. In fact, we often read your newspapers. And we also have the means to watch your television broadcasts. We are quite familiar with your TV programs and films, though some frighten us.

WWN: They frighten you? You mean because of the preponderance of violence?

Jacques: Partly, but mostly it is that we are disturbed by the lack of love we see in your world. Your people are so cruel to one another.

WWN: Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Jacques: There are many. For instance, the one you call Halle Berry.

WWN: Halle Berry?!

Jacques: Yes. Your women in general are an unappetizing lot, but this Halle Berry — her smooth and hairless skin . . . her excessively symmetrical facial features . . . her unnaturally white teeth and high, rounded teats . . . she is truly hideous.

ACTRESS HALLE BERRY

WWN: That's incredible. By our standards, she's beautiful.

Jacques: Your people have much to learn, my friend.

WWN: Do you have any particular message you would like to impart to humanity?

Jacques: Yes. You must learn to cultivate a peaceful and compassionate society. Pray for guidance, and understand that divisions of nationality are meaningless. You are all one.

OIL DISCOVERED IN CUBA

– U.S. troops poised to liberate island nation

CUBAN dictator Fidel Castro could soon be out of power and in jail — just like Saddam Hussein, the White House has vowed.

A DEEP-SEA rig has been searching for oil off Cuba, and high-tech satellites have located a rich reserve, sources say.

'The transition to democracy and freedom will present many challenges to the Cuban people and to America, and we will be prepared,' Bush said!

By MIGUEL FIGUEORA
Correspondent

HIGH-TECH U.S. satellites have detected huge oil reserves off the coast of Cuba — and delighted White House officials are swiftly formulating plans to invade the island nation and topple Fidel Castro!

The surprise attack, set for early summer, will be pitched as a long-overdue "liberation" of the Cuban people from the communist dictator.

Says a senior White House official, "The president will basically go on TV and tell the world, 'Castro has been a threat to this hemisphere for too long. The time for a diplomatic solution has passed.'"

The Bush administration is eager to see the tyrant who's thumbed his nose at so many presidents finally captured and in handcuffs, just like Saddam. But it's the access to millions of gallons of "black gold" that really excites the White House.

"We're looking at an end to our dependency on Middle Eastern oil," explains the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Once it's liberated, Cuba will be a U.S. territory, much like Puerto Rico. In other words, the entire island and all its resources will be ours."

deep-sea drilling rig was placed off the coast with the cooperation of Fidel, to search for a major deposit of light crude.

But U.S. energy companies who have President Bush's ear have pushed for our country to conduct a more high-tech search — and last fall, the amazing discovery was made.

"We already have pinpointed exactly where the reservoir of oil is," explains the official. "It's just a matter of overthrowing Fidel so we can go get it."

President Bush has been busily laying the political groundwork for the invasion, tentatively dubbed Operation Free Cuba.

Last October 10, before a gathering of Cuban-Americans in the Rose Garden, he surprised many by announcing that the administration is planning to bring down Castro soon, by unspecified means.

He directed Secretary of State Colin Powell to chair a panel that will "plan for the happy days" when Castro's regime is no more.

"The transition to democracy

THE INVASION will strike the sprawling island nation that's only 90 miles from the southern tip of Florida. Arrows pinpoint oil rigs off Cuban coast.

to America, and we will be prepared," Bush said.

The president could get a big political payoff from the invasion.

"This time the vote in Florida won't be close, trust me," the official says.

"And when gas prices drop to just pennies a gallon, Americans nationwide will be ecstatic."

Though no details of the top secret invasion plan are available, the source hinted that the U.S. base at

"After the liberation, it will serve as headquarters for the U.S. civil administrator of Cuba, or 'big enchilada' as war planners refer to the role," the source reveals.

The official insists that the attack will be nothing like the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961, in which a strike force of fewer than 1,300 men landed without crucial air support.

"This isn't going to be some half-hearted effort," he promises. "We're

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS APRIL 5, 2

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME MISS *WEEKLY WORLD NEWS* 2004?

IF YOU HAVE THE RIGHT STUFF, SEND US YOUR PHOTO RIGHT AWAY!

MISS WWN 2003, Katey Murphy, has the fresh face and stunning figure of a real beauty queen. She's a tough act to follow!

IF YOU'RE a fresh-faced, shapely gal who fantasizes about being a beauty queen, now's your chance to make that dream come true: Send us your photo and a brief bio, and you could be the next *Miss Weekly World News!*

We're looking for beautiful single women for our 10th annual beauty competition, which will crown a suitably sizzling title holder. The winner will be featured in a *Weekly World News* photo spread and receive a one-year subscription to the paper and the honor of representing America's greatest newspaper for one full year.

But if you think you have what it takes, remember that physical assets aren't the only charms we recognize.

"It goes without saying that Miss *Weekly World News* should be heart-stoppingly beautiful, and she always has been," says *WWN* Editor-in-Chief Mike Irish. "But she also needs to be intelligent, charming, compassionate and well-informed about the issues of the day, if she expects to be the standard-bearer for this great publication."

Our 2004 queen will have a lot to live up to. Past title holders have gone on to become business executives, college professors, research scientists, top fashion models and even political leaders.

To enter this year's contest, send us a current, full-length photo of yourself in a bikini, and please include your up-to-date measurements. Write a short bio including your full name, age, profession, hobbies and interests, likes and dislikes, and your dreams for the future.

Finally, answer the following question in 25 words or less: If you had complete power to solve just one problem in the world today, what would it be and why?

Do you look like our Page 5 Girl, Debra? If you do, send us a photo and tell us about yourself. You could be our big winner.

Send your entry — postmarked by July 1, 2004, to:
Miss Weekly World News 2004 Contest
1000 American Media Way
Boca Raton, FL 33464-1000.
All submissions will become the property of American Media Inc., and cannot be returned.

So you wanna see a Nazi?

IF YOU THINK celebrities aren't always happy to see loads of gawking fans outside their mansions in Beverly Hills, imagine how hunted Nazi war criminals hiding out in South America must feel when busybodies come around clutching the new "star maps" of their homes.

That's right. The biggest best-seller in Argentina is a guide to the houses of Nazi bigwigs who sought refuge there after Germany's defeat in World War II.

Many of the war criminals ended up in Bariloche, a small rustic town on the edge of the Andes — very reminiscent of the German Alps.

The guidebook, titled *Nazi Bariloche*, features such sites as a delicatessen in the town square, owned by former SS Capt. Erich Priebke; and Club Andino Bariloche, a mountaineering association that was founded by Otto Meiling, a big shot in the Hitler Youth.

The author of the guide insists there's nothing cavalier about his approach.

"It is a serious investigation, presented in nontraditional format, which seeks to demonstrate that Bariloche was a Nazi stronghold," researcher Abel Basti was quoted as saying in London's *Daily Telegraph*.

NOW THAT TAKES THE CAKE!

LIGHTING 106 candles on her great-grandmother's birthday cake was a bad move, says Brenda Simpson, who watched in shock and disbelief as the fire spread to nearby curtains — and burned down the old woman's ancestral home.

Nobody was injured in the blaze. But firefighters in Cape Town, South Africa, confirm that

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HEY DOC, CAN YOU GIVE ME A HAND?

WOW, is this guy a mess — one arm's been cut off, and what's it doing sitting on his leg? It's waiting to be reattached, that's what. The 25-year-old man from Valencia, Spain, lost the arm in a traffic accident. The stump got infected, and doctors needed a way to keep the arm alive while healing the stump. They just connected the veins and arteries in the arm to the ones in the leg, so the arm will be healthy when the stump is ready. These doctors sound like real handy guys!

KEITH RICHARDS SHOULD BE DEAD, SAYS TOP DOC!

HARD-LIVING Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards should have dropped dead eight years ago, reveals a health expert.

Based on his lifestyle, Richards — who has a well-chronicled history of drug abuse — should have kicked the bucket back in 1996, according to the calculations of famed gerontologist Dr. David Demko. Yet the leather-faced rocker, now 60, has "eluded death," the baffled expert marvels.

"He should have passed away at 52," dumfounded Dr. Demko says. "I'm not sure the topic."

The expert extensively researched the lifestyles of many performers and predicted their death dates in an article entitled "When Will Your Favorite Rock Star Die?" for *Blender* magazine.

According to Demko's calculations, Ozzy Osborne will leave us in nine years at age 65; Whitney Houston, now 40, will pass away at just 59; and Michael "Wacko Jacko" Jackson, 45, will moonwalk off this mortal coil at age 76.

Clean-living and energetic Sting, a committed vegetarian and yoga enthusiast, can expect to live to and perhaps

Crack head finds ultimate high

A CRACK head found the ultimate high after buying illegal drugs on the street.

What he couldn't know was that undercover police were watching as he purchased the drugs.

Police officers then swooped in and arrested the drug dealers.

The man tried to escape but was cornered, when he frantically tried to swallow several bags of crack cocaine to keep the police from finding the drugs — and, regretfully, he choked to

YOU CAN TELL IF A GAL IS A TRAMP – BY CHECKING OUT HER FINGERS!

By GEORGE SANFORD
Correspondent

IN the past, the only reason for a bachelor to check out an attractive gal's ring finger at a bar was to find out if she was already married or engaged.

But now, researchers say it's possible to take one look at a woman's hand and discover whether she's a hot-to-trot tramp who'll jump in bed with you at the drop of a hat!

An intriguing new study done by McMaster University reveals that women whose index fingers are shorter than their ring fingers are far more likely to engage in casual sex.

The eye-opening finding was made by psychologist Andrew Clark, an expert at the prestigious school in Ontario, Canada, and will be published in the journal *Evolution and Human Behavior*.

Men typically have longer ring fingers than index fingers, while in women the ratio is usually the reverse. Clark found in two separate studies of college coeds that those special few ladies whose ring fingers are longer are more willing "to engage in casual, uncommitted sex."

The researcher speculates that women who exhibit the trait were exposed to higher-than-average levels of the male hormone testosterone while developing in the womb.

And although this gives them "man hands," it by no means dooms them to be lesbians. Indeed, a high level of testosterone is linked to increased heterosexual appetite in both men and women.

"These women are the kind who will jump into bed with a man at the drop of a hat and are extremely open to sexual experimentation," explains another expert.

"They basically engage in the same caddish 'dog' type behavior as a skirt-chasing male.

"Society will often label such women as floozies but in fact they're simply behaving just as nature instructs them."

Clark notes that the powerful desire to spread one's genes by mating with as many partners as possible is an inherently male trait. Thus women with more-masculine behavior wired in from birth are driven to engage in sexual intercourse with new acquaintances.

Although experts have known for a century that the ratio between index and ring fingers varies between men and women, researchers had not previously noted any behavioral differences among people who are an exception to the rule.

Now that the study is out, men are expected to pay a lot more attention to women's hands. But guys, if you stare too obviously, beware — that pretty girl in the bar may hold up her middle finger for you to gaze at!

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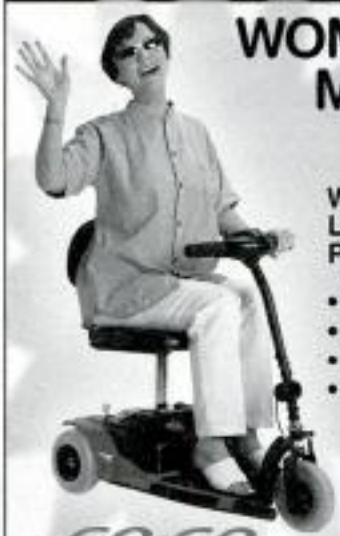

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DO YOU HAVE THE WORLD'S BIGGEST BUTT?

By VICKIE YORK
Correspondent

DO YOU have the largest rear end anyone's ever seen — a king-size keister so enormous your titanic tush is the talk of the town? Then you could be sitting on a gold mine!

The manufacturer of a new weight-loss product is looking for the world's biggest butt — and the winner of the colossal-caboose contest will become the company's official spokesmodel.

"We're not talking about a fanny like J.Lo's, prominent but tight and toned. We're seeking a spectacularly obese, gargantuan rump many, many times larger than that," says Barry Sanderfeld, president and CEO of Blubber-Buster Health Shakes.

"The winner of our international contest will receive a free six-month supply of our shakes. For our ads, we'll take before and after photos of him or her from behind in skin-tight jeans.

"People will see how our shakes can whittle even the heftiest person down to size."

The Australian company claims its miracle product turns the body into a "fat-burning machine."

"In a short period of time, the person we select as our spokesmodel will go from sporting a pair of supermassive 'beach balls' back there to having a compact, barely there behind that looks like it belongs on a teenage pop star," promises Sanderfeld.

IF your butt is even bigger than this guy's, you're in luck!

IF YOU DO — you could be sitting on a gold mine!

"If you've been ashamed of your gigantic buttocks for years, this is the time to stop trying to hide it. If you've got it, flaunt it — because it's your ticket to fame and fortune.

"And in a matter of months, you'll be happy to proudly display it on the beach in a thong — whether you're a man or a woman."

Do you have the "right stuff" to be named owner of the world's biggest butt — and win a lucrative endorsement deal?

Here are 12 signs that your backside is a serious contender:

- You require a minimum of three seats while flying on an airplane.
- Neighborhood kids have given you an unflattering nickname, such as Lard Bottom, J. Loaves, or Brontosaurus Butt.
- In the dog days of summer, animals seek shade in the shadow of your humongous heinie.
- You've demolished four or more potties.
- You can't fit into store-bought underwear, so you have to make your own from special materials, such as an Army surplus parachute.
- People turn pale and put down their junk food when you waddle into McDonald's.
- You and your flabulous fanny have been stuck in a bathtub more than six times.
- Thanks to your mountainous moons, you can't pass through a revolving door.
- You've stopped "backing that thing up" on the dance floor because the last time you did, someone was injured.
- When you step onto an elevator, fellow passengers look scared and hurriedly scramble off.
- You need to allow several minutes of "lag time" for your blubbery backside to pass through a doorway after you do.
- You often find yourself grumbling about how "small" cars are today — even when squeezing into a Humvee.

DOES your oversized derriere make J.Lo look flat as a pancake?

CHECK OUT THE NEW 500-LB. SUPERMODEL

WORLD NEWS APRIL 9, 2002

My America

BY ED ANGER

Ed says:

BAN HOWARD STERN FROM THE AIRWAVES

SLEAZY shock jocks like Howard Stern should be kicked off the air, Ed says.

– and bring back wholesome radio shows like Orson Welles' Mercury Theater and Edgar Bergen & Charlie McCarthy!

I'M MADDER than the Green Hornet on Kato's vacation day at that sleazy shock jock Howard Stern and all his disciples nationwide who pollute the airwaves with their obscene trash!

Sure, Clear Channel Communications suspended Stern from a half dozen stations they run, but a rival network carries him in other cities. And by now he's spawned a heap of imitators even raunchier than he is. Remember those blasphemous DJs who talked a couple of listeners into making whoopee in St. Patrick's Cathedral?

Just once I listened to Stern, after my son Jimbo kept raving about what a "comic genius" he is over dinner. Well, it didn't take me long to figure out why my boy was so worked up. The whole show was about some hussy porn starlet taking her clothes off on the air!

Lord knows Jimbo is no Stephen Hawking, but how lamebrained do you have to be to LISTEN to a gal supposedly stripping on the radio? Yet millions of Stern fans are suckered into tuning in every day.

Now back in the good old days, people took it on faith that when they listened to Charlie McCarthy on the radio, Edgar Bergen's lips weren't moving. But those were simpler times, when a ventriloquist could be trusted not to cheat even if no one could see him.

Which brings me to my point. I say the FCC ought to ban every last one of these modern radio shows — starting with Howard Stern and his clones. I'm serious — everything from that filthy rap music to the pinko propaganda on NPR.

WHOLESOME old-time radio shows like *The Shadow*, featuring the

Then let's bring back the wholesome radio shows of yesteryear like *The Shadow*, *The Great Gildersleeve* and *Fibber McGee and Molly*.

The Greatest Generation grew up on those shows — that's how they learned the moral values that helped them win World War II, by jiminy.

Listening to *The Lone Ranger*, boys learned to be brave, always do the right thing and shoot the gun out of a bad guy's hand when possible.

Jack Armstrong — the All American Boy was another terrific role model. *Mr. District Attorney* taught everyone respect for the law.

There are plenty of other shows that would be just as timely today as they were back in the 1930s and '40s, like *The Adventures of Babe Ruth*, *Mr. Keen — Tracer of Lost Persons*.

About the only show that should never be rebroadcast is that stupid *War of the Worlds* program Orson Wells put on in 1938.

My pa drove 14 miles into town to sign up "to fight those godless Martians" and was plenty mad when he found out the whole thing was a big joke. Hoaxes have no business on the radio. If we wanted lies, we'd keep that commie NPR on the air, by gum.

But don't worry. Orson could still get back on the radio as the voice of The Shadow, teaching young folks that "the weed of crime bears bitter fruit, crime does not pay," and spooking 'em with that creepy laugh.

Ed Anger

FANS trusted ventriloquist Edgar

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

EXCLUSIVE POLICE BEAT

By JOE CRAFT
Crime Reporter

OLDSTERS BRAWL OVER BUFFET

CRIME BLOTTER

MAN BEATS NEIGHBOR WITH LEG

Horrified police say a man ripped an artificial leg off a neighbor's body and used it to beat up the neighbor!

The alleged attacker suspected the neighbor of stealing some medicine from his apartment, according to police in Fredericksburg, Va. They say he rushed to the neighbor's apartment, knocked him to the ground, and pulled off the fake leg — which he used as a club and bashed the neighbor in the face.

The one-legged man was later treated at a hospital for a broken nose and other facial injuries. Police arrested the hothead for assault and theft.

CLOWNS ROB GUARDS

Security guards who were filling up an ATM were robbed by a bunch of clowns — real clowns!

Cops in Ciudad Carmen, Mexico, say five men in goofy costumes stole about $185,000 in cash from the guards, and then disappeared into a crowd of revelers in a street carnival. "Many people were disguised as clowns, so it was impossible to distinguish them," says a frustrated police spokesman.

The comical crime almost turned into a tragedy, when the clowns and guards started shooting at each other. One of the guards was injured.

STUDENT KILLED FOR CHEATING

You thought your school was tough on cheaters? The principal of a school in India shot and killed a student for passing notes during an exam, according to police!

They say Harnek Singh, head of the high school in Chhajjalwadi, blasted 20-year-old Sandip Singh, who later died of a bullet wound to his chest.

Sources say the student had been feeding exam notes to pals, who would copy them to cheat from. The principal warned them to stop, but apparently they didn't — so Principal Singh allegedly decided to hand out the ultimate expulsion.

Police say the principal fled after the shooting. Police were still hunting

Name-calling leads to mayhem after 86-year-old is punched out in food line!

THE SALAD BAR at a retirement home is one of the last places you'd expect to have a brawl break out.

A BRAWL broke out in the dining room of a posh retirement home, injuring three people — including the mother of one of the scuffling seniors.

Retirees were punched in the face, bitten in the arm or knocked to the floor in the mealtime melee that was touched off when two men exchanged nasty words in the buffet line, according to police in Winter Haven, Fla.

At the height of the retirees' rumble, police spokesman J.J. Stanton says, "all the old folks were either getting up to help or trying to get out of there." But those who tried to help only got hurt for their trouble.

Stanton says the fogey fracas started at Spring Haven Retirement Community when a 62-year-old man was picking through lettuce in the salad bar. An 86-year-old man told him in a disgusted tone that nobody wanted to eat food after it had been "played with."

The 62-year-old cursed the 86-year-old, who responded by calling the younger man a name. Then the 62-year-old allegedly punched the 86-year-old in the face.

Stanton says a 79-year-old man tied to break up the fight, and was allegedly bitten on the arm by the 62-year-old brawler. A 92-year-old man was knocked to the ground and cut his head.

And the 80-something mom of the 62-year-old — the man who'd allegedly thrown the first punch — ended up cutting her arm when she tried to get her son under control.

Stanton says the three injured elderly were treated at a local hospital and then sent home.

None of them wanted to press charges, he says, but the 62-year-old scrapper has been asked to move out.

Stanton says the upscale retirement community is normally quiet and placid.

"I've been in police work for 34 years," he says, "and I've never seen anything like this."

RAP SHEET

PASTOR FALLS TO SIN OF WEED, COPS SAY

FAME is usually a good thing for performers, but in the case of rising rap star Pastor Troy it just got him in deeper trouble during a minor drug arrest.

Lawmen say Troy had been pulled over for a traffic offense in Fayetteville, Ga., when a Fayette County sheriff's deputy allegedly found a small amount of marijuana — less than an ounce — in his car.

Sources say Troy gave the deputy a fake name — but driving by and calling out to him. The deputy then found one of the rapper's CDs in the car, sealing his fate.

A sheriff's spokeswoman says Troy, whose real name is Micah Levar Troy, was arrested for misdemeanor possession of marijuana and giving a false name to police, which is also a misdemeanor.

He was released from Fayette County Jail after posting bond. At press time, prosecutors had not formally filed a case against him.

RAP STAR Pastor Troy

DOPE OF THE WEEK

A BRAZILIAN man lost two bags packed with marijuana — and was busted when he actually went to the police for help in finding them!

Lawmen in Campinas, Brazil, say the dope had left his dope unattended at a bus station. When he found police who'd taken the bags, which they said reeked of marijuana. Inside were almost 125 kilos — about 275 pounds — of the illegal weed.

"He was very naive to think that we were going to help him find two bags filled with drugs," says a police spokesman. "Even if we hadn't found

ARE YOU NUTS?

FIND OUT NOW – BY ANSWERING THESE THREE SIMPLE QUESTIONS

By FRED KENNEDY/*Correspondent*

IT'S NOT too late to get help if our test shows that you're a raving lunatic!

You can find out if you're nuts and don't know it, with tips from a leading psychiatrist.

"Millions of Americans are clinically insane but they don't realize it because, well, they're crazy," says maverick Dr. Barbara Flenel.

"But it's certainly nothing to be embarrassed about. Some of our greatest historical figures and celebrities have been stark, raving mad. Billionaire Howard Hughes was an obsessive-compulsive lunatic who washed his hands hundreds of times a day because he was terrified of germs."

Finding out whether you are nuts can help you avoid making costly and embarrassing mistakes, says the expert.

Here are three "yes" and "no" questions that, when answered honestly, will indicate whether you're riding the "sanity train" or the "cuckoo bus," says Flenel, adding that if your friends and loved ones don't want to answer the questions themselves, you may feel free to answer for them and tell them what you've concluded.

Remember: You must answer each question with a "yes" or a "no" — no hedging!

1 Do you ever feel that life is more complicated than it needs to be?

If you answered "no," you have an admirable grip on reality and the kind of can-do attitude that it takes to be a winner in life.

If you answered "yes," that is not a good sign. You are struggling to cope and in time may crack or even "go postal" and kill somebody, especially if you answer "yes" to the next question.

2 Do you think life would be better if only good things happened to you?

If you answered "yes," you are setting yourself up for disappointment. Life is a mixture of good and bad things, and you must learn to accept both. Only then will you be able to enjoy life to the fullest.

If you answered "no," you are a realist. You know that good things in life would happen all the time and the bad things would just go away?

If you answered "no," once again, you've proved that you are capable of rolling with the punches, and that you can embrace life and live it to the fullest — which are hallmarks of the sane mind.

If you answered "yes," you are deeply and possibly even dangerously troubled. By rejecting the half of reality that's not to your liking, you are constantly struggling to come to terms with "what is" and "what could be." Even worse, you've sliced your psyche in half, rendering yourself "schizo."

King Midas — who wanted everything to turn gold — suffered this way. He was extremely unhappy, and, eventually, the famed, fairy-tale royal went stark, raving mad.

3 Do you think other people are the cause of your problems?

If you answered "yes," you are both infantile and out-of-balance, a classic "nut." The chances of you ever finding meaning and happiness in life are slim. After awhile, this misery may cause you to fall completely off your rocker.

If you answered "no," you are level-headed and even-tempered. Both of these are characteristics of a sane and healthy individual, psychiatrist Flenel says.

"If you are sane, congratulations — and if you are a nut, take heart," continues the Los Angeles-based expert. "Today really is the first day of the rest of your life. And if you want to change, you can.

"If you've got money, make an appointment with a psychiatrist. If you're poor, visit your state-supported mental health center and stand in line. Either way, you'll find yourself on the road to recovery from our ill-

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NEWS 'TOONS

"O positive on the rocks please."

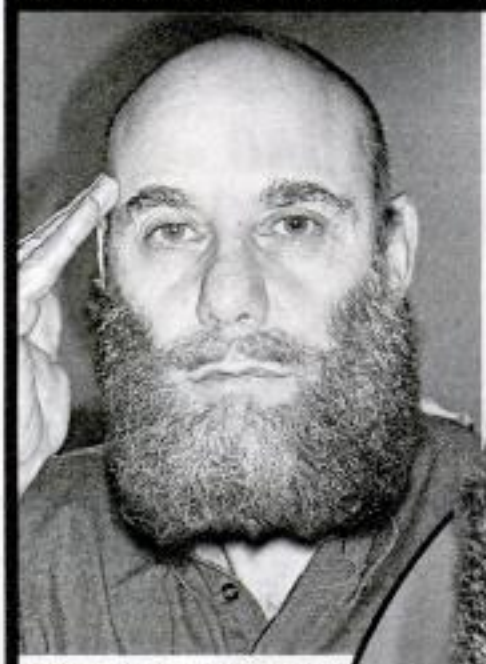
"I found a real simple way to take 10 years off my age. Lie."

"I'm here to complain about the noise."

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS MEDICAL UPDATE:

BEARD

By MAGGIE DOWD/*Correspondent*



BARE as a baby's butt on top, manly and full on the bottom. Why can't bearded baldies move some of that stuff from their chins to their scalps?

NOW THEY CAN! A Salt Lake City physician has figured out how to transplant beard hair to the top of the head, giving chrome-domes a youthful and sexy new look.

NEW COLLEGE FOOD FAD

COLLEGE KIDS used to think it was a big deal to swallow goldfish — now they're eating rats!

"Swallowing goldfish is so lame — that's what our parents did when they were in college," says a junior at the University of South Carolina, in Columbia. "Lab rats are much cooler.

"They really wiggle going down."

Nobody knows how, when or where the filthy fad started, but health officials say reports of college students getting sick after they ate rats are trickling in from every state.

Authorities also warn that

CANCER MAN JUST WOULDN'T DIE!

A man who was diagnosed as having terminal cancer went through two years of living hell before he found out his doctor goofed — and there was nothing wrong with him!

"I thought every day was going to be my last," the 47-year-old man from Syracuse, N.Y., was quoted as saying in the *Journal of Medical Malfeasance*.

car before the truth came out. I never did have cancer.

"A nurse finally figured out that my records had gotten mixed up with somebody else's."

The man said he has no plans to sue the physician "because I'm a Christian and suing is against my religion."

New hope for the bald . . .

TRANSPLANTS!

BALD men who don't have a hair on their heads can now get their beards transplanted up there!

"We just take the stubble off their faces and plug it into their scalp — the idea is so simple, it's amazing that nobody thought of it before," says Dr. Paula Remario, the forward-moving cosmetic surgeon who devised the innovative technique.

"The hair isn't particularly soft or supple but it's certainly better than nothing. Just ask the men who've gotten beard-to-head transplants. They're loving every minute of it."

Hair transplants are nothing new, of course. And the fact is, for most men with male pattern baldness, there's plenty of hair on the sides of the head to provide all the plugs and grafts necessary to replace what's missing on top.

But approximately 10 percent of men who go bald lose every hair on their scalp. These chrome-domes had no hope of getting transplants until Remario, of Salt Lake City, decided to experiment with grafting hair from different parts of the body.

Her experiments included underarm hair, pubic hair, hair from the back, hair from the chest, hand hair, finger hair, toe hair, top-of-the-foot hair, arm hair, nose hair, ear hair, wart hair, hair that grows from moles, and beard hair.

"It all works," she says, "but in most cases, the final result leaves a lot to be desired. Ear hair and nose hair, for example, tend to grow unevenly, with some hairs getting very long very quickly, while other hairs grow an inch or so and stop.

"Underarm hair is just too difficult to style and trim — it really does just lie there, and recipients can't shake the feeling that it needs to be sprayed or rubbed down with deodorant.

"Leg hair is sparse and can be quite painfully stubbly when short. Pubic hair is downright obscene."

But beard hair, adds the surgeon, "has lots going for it. It tends to grow straight up from the scalp like a 1970s-style 'Afro' haircut, but a lot of men like that — particularly if they've been bald for a long time.

"They feel like it gives them an in-your-face, big-hair look that really makes them feel good about themselves. Aside from that, beard hair is easy to style and trim. And it grows really fast.

"Only leg hair comes close."

Roger Philterman, 43, also of Salt Lake City, got what Remario calls "a full beard transplant" last November.

And he says his life instantly changed for the better.

"Women started looking at me with desire in their eyes — something I haven't experienced in years," he says.

"My boss started treating me with more respect, and even sales clerks and strangers in the street seemed to start going out of their way to say nice things to me and compliment me on my looks.

"But even more important than that is the difference it's made in the way I see myself. I used to avert my eyes when I looked in a mirror. Now I stand there for minutes at a time, combing my hair and admiring my youthful new look.

If you think you are a candidate for beard-hair transplants, Remario suggests you consult cosmetic surgeons and hair transplant specialists in your hometown. The cost is the same as for any other hair transplant, she says — between $2,000 and $10,000, depending on how much "real estate" you have to cover.

"Not everyone is doing the beard transplants yet, but they will be soon," says the surgeon. "This isn't a flash in the pan. It's an idea whose time has come."

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By PETER MUELLER
Correspondent

WORLD'S CRUELEST PSYCHIC IS BACK WITH CELEBRITY PREDICTIONS!

– and he's not pulling punches

PSYCHIC
Peter Meers

HUNDREDS of terrified women sue a celebrity sperm bank after they find out pop creep Michael Jackson made regular deposits and may be the father of their babies!

Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney suffers a humiliating setback on live, satellite-feed TV when false teeth fall out of his mouth during a benefit concert for broke and aging groupies!

And white hip-hop artist Eminem stuns friends and foes alike when he starts appearing in public in blackface to promote his outrageous new remake of the 1964 film classic, *Black Like Me!*

"It's going to be a very bad year for celebrities, which means it's going to be a very good year for those of us who like to see stars cut down to size," crows Peter Meers, America's Cruelest Psychic.

"As usual, I'm not going to pull any punches. I call them as I see them — and what I see in 2004 are your favorite celebrities looking like morons and idiots all through this year — and beyond."

Here are more of the Los Angeles-based psychic's celebrity predictions for 2004. Warning: if you worship the ground celebrities walk on or are easily offended, stop reading now. And don't say we didn't warn you!

● Siegfried and Roy return to Las Vegas after their sabbatical during Roy's recovery from his onstage mauling. Critics mercilessly rip into the wild-tiger show, saying it has "lost its spark" since Roy has become a human vegetable.

● Stick-thin Jennifer Aniston falls into a deep depression and balloons to 235 pounds after hunky hubby Brad Pitt offhandedly tells her there's "something wrong" with her neck. "It looks like you might have a goiter," he remarks while they're vacationing in the sun-drenched Bahamas.

● Ex-super hunk Tom Selleck hits the comeback trail as grizzled Jed Clampett in an ill-conceived made-for-TV movie, *The Beverly Hillbillies Reunion*. The show — which also features Cher as Granny and Rosie O'Donnell as Jethro — bombs, and Selleck returns to private life, reiterating his firm belief and career-long assertion, "I'm a really nice guy," to anybody who'll listen.

● Wrinkled rasslin' legend Hulk Hogan is jailed without bond after he pile-drives an orderly who calls him a "has been" and "prune face" while the Hulkster's kids are checking him into an old folks' home.

● Britney Spears punches Madonna's lights out during an MTV special when the aging rock queen tries for a second "lesbian kiss" like the one the duo made famous on live TV last year. "Her breath stunk like an old shoe," pop tart Brit will be quoted as saying. "And besides, there's no telling WHERE Madonna's mouth has been. Yucky!"

● Super lesbian Ellen DeGeneres will not make news again this year despite the best efforts of publicists to get her air time over and over and over again.

● The sudden announcement that shock jock Howard Stern has decided to undergo a sex-change operation on live TV will stun nobody more than sidekick Robin Quivers, who will reveal that she is pregnant with twins — and her soon-to-be-female boss Howard is the father!

● Talk-radio kingpin Rush Limbaugh declares himself free of all prescription-drug cravings — but the news isn't as good as it sounds. Caught with five "dime bags" of heroin in his briefcase, the Rush-ster admits he's got a new monkey on his back — street drugs!

● Liberal filmmaker and harsh Bush administration critic Michael Moore is jailed for jay-walking without benefit of trial, effectively shutting him up until his unceremonious release from a pen at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, two days after the November presidential election.

● Late-night TV king Jay Leno's life plunges into a nightmare when botched jaw-reduction surgery turns him into a hatchet-faced and chinless wonder.

● Home-and-hearth goddess Martha Stewart is sentenced to two years in prison for obstruction of justice. And to make things even worse, her new *Prison Living* show falls flat with viewers, who say recipes like "Big House Brownies" and "Hacksaw Turkey Surprise" — and features like "How to Make a Knife out of a Toothbrush" — just aren't relevant to life on the outside.

Dear Dotti

AMERICA'S MOST OUTSPOKEN, IN-YOUR-FACE COLUMNIST

SHE SAYS...

"You reach an age where you've just had enough. Sometimes it's great to put on makeup and heels and let your hair down . . . sometimes it's better staying in jeans." — Kylie Minogue

VITAL STATISTICS –
Born: May 28, 1968, Melbourne, Australia. Height: 5 feet 1 inch. Hair: Naturally blonde. Eyes: Blue. Marital status: Engaged to James Gooding.

I'd be more than happy to support my kids

...if there weren't so many of 'em!

DEAR DOTTI: I have three or four kids by my girlfriend and they live with her. I love them and all that but I just don't want to see them all the time. My gal nags me for not helping to pay the bills, and I wouldn't mind helping out, but since I'm not living with her and the kids it wouldn't be right for me to spend all my money on them.

And besides, there are so many of them it's like, man, I make O.K. money in construction but I'm no Rockefeller. How can I get my girlfriend off my back? She must be pregnant again because she's getting more and more insistent that I give her some money. — Pressured in Kansas City

Dear Pressured: Your girlfriend shouldn't be begging you to take responsibility for the kids — she should be taking you for everything you're worth in a court of law. Luckily for you she's an idiot. The bottom line? Tell her to buzz off.

I'm the king of my castle and my wife is the servant

Dear Dotti: Every time I turn on the TV some idiot is trying to tell me how women are equal to men. They say women should make the same money. They say women got a bum deal because God picked them to

before I agreed to get hitched: "You're going to do what I say when I say it and you ain't giving me any back talk." Smart men like me understand that this is the way it's supposed to be. The world would be a better place if everybody thought that way. — Smart Man in Atlanta

Dear Man's Man: "Smart man" doesn't do you justice. You are, in fact, "the Einstein of Idiots." Get lost.

Does kissin' my cousins make me a tramp?

Dear Dotti: I'm a good-looking young woman and all the men in my life know it. Just last week at the family reunion my step-brothers and cousins and even my dad, whom I haven't seen since he and Mom divorced in 1994, fell all over themselves to tell me what a lovely young lady I've become and how "grown up" I am. I really was in the spotlight all day long. It made me feel so proud and so sexy to have all those men fawning over me. I just flirted and acted sexy and I guess some of the other women got jealous because several of them took me aside and told me to "stop acting like a tramp." I was rather upset by this, Dotti, because I'm 17 years old and perfectly capable of deciding when and where to flirt. I don't think it was anybody's business how I was acting. Don't you think I'm right? — Young Lady in Tupelo

Dear Young Lady: Lots of gals flirt at family reunions — especially in the Deep South. And you can tell 'em a mile away because they're the women who just nine months later are lugging around

CONFIDENTIALS

Dear Angry Cop in Chimney Rock: Is that a burning tire I smell or did somebody throw a match on your brain? Go away.

Dear Dotti's Sister Debbi in Dallas: I guess I got the "pretty" and you got the . . . well, no, come to think of it, I got the "smarts," too!

Dear Inventor in Farnsworth: "Millions of men" MAY want one of your chattering-teeth "love dolls" – but I doubt it!

Dear Shrewd Dude in Durham: So let me get this straight: If I don't reveal your name, James, or your wife's name, Glenda, then she won't know you're cheating with Sally, her sister, and Martha, the preacher's daughter. In case you haven't noticed, clod, no deal!

WRITE TO DOTTI PRIMROSE

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS APRIL

'I'M TV'S NEW BACH
VOWS 500-LB SU

Will new show queen-size love man of her dr

WORLD NEWS APRIL 5, 2004

ELORETTE' ERMODEL!

help
y find
ams?

By KATE VASQUEZ
Correspondent

THE NEXT reality TV megahit will star one of the world's biggest beauties, in a heart-wrenching quest for true love that's sure to keep viewers on the edge of their seats for weeks.

That's the hopeful word from 500-pound supermodel Teighlor, who reveals that she's talking to producers of a new reality show with the working title *Big Beautiful Bachelorette*.

"I'm going to be reality TV's biggest hit — and find a real man to love," vows Teighlor, in an exclusive interview with *Weekly World News*.

The show will have 20 handsome hunks competing for Teighlor's hefty hand. And the lucky guy who wins will not only claim her heart, but will take home the bonus prize of a cool million bucks.

Nothing's final yet; producers are still shopping the show at the big three networks and at several cable channels. But insiders say TV executives have responded favorably to the pitch, and a deal may be in the offing by summer.

"This is one of the most exciting concepts to come along since *Survivor*, and we already know there's potentially a huge audience for it," says an assistant to one of the programming executives who's considering *3B*, as *Big Beautiful Bachelorette* has come to be known around Hollywood.

At least one dating show already on the air has included episodes in which the star puts on a fat suit and the men are shown responding to what they think is a hugely fat woman. Those have been some of the shows' highest-rated episodes, the assistant points out.

"So to build an entire series around that kind of thing — well, let's just say my boss didn't kick them out of his office when they suggested it."

Alvin Dunwoody, executive producer of *3B*, says he approached Teighlor in late 2003. "This is an idea I've been toying with for some time, but I haven't been able to find the right woman to put out front on it," says the veteran producer, whose TV credits include documentaries and public-affairs programs in New

ALMOST ANYTHING goes these days on reality TV, where prizes range from $1 million to a dream job with one of the world's most powerful businessmen.

1. *Survivor All-Stars* brings back top contestants playing for $1 million, on the series that started the reality trend. 2. Matt Kennedy thought he was in a whole other reality show than *Joe Schmo*, which played his dreams for laughs — and a $100,000 prize. 3. Beautiful Randi Coy went after $1 million with a fake engagement to fat slob Steven W. Bailey, in *My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance*. 4. Better taste and a better life are the prizes in *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*. 5. A gang of go-getters try to show Donald Trump they have what it takes to work for him, on *The Apprentice*. 6. The little guy looks for true love with a woman who doesn't mind a short engagement, in *The Littlest Groom*.

The one chosen by Teighlor will receive $1 million

'I'M TV'S NEW BACHELORETTE'

(Continued from Page 25)

Zealand and South Africa. "And with Americans getting fatter and fatter every day, I knew it was only a matter of time until someone else did it.

"Then I saw Teighlor in *Weekly World News*, and I knew I'd found my star."

Teighlor has been one of the world's biggest supermodels, and not just because of her eye-popping proportions of 63-53-78. She's starred in several feature films and modeled in magazines seen around the world, and her Web site was one of the Internet's busiest until she decided to take a break from the constant demands of her fame.

The flabulous femme FATale has had no lack of lovers, and even more men have found their hearts crushed when she turned them down.

"I've had some good relationships and even one or two great ones, like most women," Teighlor says. "But I've never found the one man out there who was truly meant for me. So I'm taking my shot with Alvin's show."

She and Dunwoody say half of the 20 single men competing on *3B* will be "chubby chasers," men who are sexually turned on by huge women. She's recommended several fatty fanatics from her base of admirers, and Dunwoody plans to invite them to audition after he gets network backing to shoot a pilot episode.

The other 10 men will have traditional taste in women, preferring to hook up with gals who are only a fraction of Teighlor's size.

All 20 men will attempt to win Teighlor's love by showing — or faking — sincere attraction to her big body and even bigger heart. They'll be run through a series of increasingly tough challenges to prove their desire for the supersize siren, and in the end two men will remain.

One — chosen by Teighlor on a live-broadcast series finale — will win the $1 million.

It'll be an enormous challenge. "These guys will have to pull out all the stops to show they're worthy of a woman like Teighlor," Dunwoody says. "Some of the contestants are going to be very surprised at how hard they'll find themselves working to win Teighlor's love. She's a warm, kind, sweet woman who also happens to be a lot of fun — she's got an outrageous sense of humor. If I weren't not looking for a pretty-boy model type who spends all his time pumping iron — although I wouldn't mind having one or two of them around for a few episodes," she adds with a grin.

"The most important thing to me is that he's intelligent, articulate and thoughtful, and has a good sense of humor. I want someone I can be friends with first, and then lovers."

"I'm picky," she admits, "but I'm worth it."

two tests on each episode. "Friendship challenges" will take place at locations including beaches, playgrounds and a water-theme park. "Romance challenges" will bring Teighlor and her suitors together over candlelight dinners, at trendy nightclubs and in other intimate moments.

Every challenge will end with a kiss — and its quality will carry the most weight in Teighlor's decision about who stays and who goes.

"We've also got a few surprises in store," Dunwoody says. "All I can say is, don't judge this show by anything you've ever seen on television before."

Dunwoody will make all final casting decisions for the show, but says Teighlor's opinions will be considered. "After all, she's the one who'll be spending her life with the winner — or so the guy should hope."

Teighlor says she'll be looking for men at least as tall as she is — 5 feet 6 inches — with "regular guy" looks. "They should be in reasonably good condition and have a nice face. I'm

'I want someone I can be friends with first, and then lovers'

The Psychic Sabak Sisters

AMERICA'S SEXIEST SEERS

Let Serena and Sonya help you! Write: Sabaks, *Weekly World News*, P.O. Box 3036, Boca Raton, Fla. 33431-0936. We'll forward your letters to them. Don't send money. Their advice is free.

PERSONAL TO:

Drug dealer in Los Angeles: The reason you're having this run of incredibly bad luck is that your bad karma is finally catching up with you. Either change your ways or prepare for things to get even worse.

Treasure Hunter in Haverton: Sorry to have to tell you this, but you might as well put that shovel away — the buried treasure your Uncle Bernie always used to tell you about was just a story.

Harvey in Anselmo: Yes, you do indeed have tons of musical talent, but you'll have to work hard to attain the success you so sorely crave. I see that a move to Austin, Texas, will be the best way to get your career rolling.

Lovelorn in Jacksonville: Believe me, this man isn't worth pining over. Your real soul mate will enter your life early next year.

CAN YOU TELL IF MY PATIENT IS SUFFERING FROM ALZHEIMER'S?

DEAR SERENA: First let me say that I'm a big fan and I read your column every week without fail. Now, here's my problem. I'm a doctor, and I have an elderly patient who seems in many respects to have Alzheimer's disease.

She forgets the names of close friends and relatives, she loses her way in conversations, she often can't remember how to perform simple tasks such as bathing or brushing her teeth, and her personality has changed dramatically. All the signs point to Alzheimer's, but there's this little voice in my head that keeps telling me the real problem is something that's easily treatable — if I can just figure out what it is. Help me, Serena, and help my patient. Give me a second opinion. — MD in New York

Dear MD: Thank goodness for doctors who trust their intuitions and their psychics. As you suspect, your patient doesn't have Alzheimer's — but she does have a BB-sized brain tumor that you've overlooked on her scans. Take a closer look at her left temporal lobe and you'll see what I'm talking about. Remove it and she'll be better in no time.

★ ★ ★

Dear Sonya: Why does my mother accuse me of taking drugs? I'm a good girl and I value my health and my self respect. But she won't believe me and nags and threatens me constantly. Sometimes I cry myself to sleep at night — and I know she's doing the same because she thinks I'm so evil. Why does she think such thoughts? Why does she think I'm a monster? — Good Girl in Boone

Dear Good Girl: My Ouija board hit the nail on the head, chickster, with NO hesitation: "Her . . . geeky . . . brother . . . tell . . . mom . . . lies . . . so . . . him . . . be . . . number . . . one . . . kid . . ." Ouija went on to advise you to ". . . fix . . . punk's . . . wagon . . . tell . . . mom . . . him . . . got . . . girlie . . . books . . . under . . . he . . . bed." That's optional, of course, but I do want you to sit down with your Mom and have a heart-to-heart talk. I've already encircled you in an energy that will open the lines of communication — and trust — between you!

★ ★ ★

Dear Sonya: My girlfriend wants to go to bed with me but I'm trying to save myself for marriage. She says she'll wait if she has to, but that doesn't keep her from pawing at me and begging every night of our life. We're only 19 years old, so it's not like we're going to run out of time. What I need to know from you is whether Marsha really will wait — or if she'll go looking for somebody new. — Virgin in Tomkins

Dear Virgin: Marsha's hot-blooded, all right — but she'll wait for you, dude, for sure. In fact, peering into my crystal ball, I see the two of you lovin' it up big time — on your honeymoon in 2009!

★ ★ ★

Dear Serena: Which one of those stupid kids in the neighborhood threw that dang baseball through my bedroom window? I want the little monster's parents to pay through their teeth. It cost me $145 to get it replaced! — Furious in Birmingham

Dear Furious: If you want reimbursement, forget the neighborhood kids — and talk to your wife. The ball belongs to her. And it WAS an accident!

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ORIENT
2 3 4 5 6 7

What's your secret message from the Fortune Cookie this week? It's easy and fun to decipher. Here's the key to decoding your message:

If the number of letters in your first name is 5 or less, subtract that number from 7. If there are more than 5 letters in your first name, subtract the total from 13.

Now take the result and find your key letter in the word ORIENT above. Then, starting at the upper left corner of the box at left, check each one of your key letters as it appears from left to right. The letters below each of

This week's six luckiest lotto numbers picked by the *Weekly World News* Super Computer: 2 9 15 30 37 41

BIGFOOT® World's Biggest Crossword – Weekly World News Exclusive

ACROSS

1 Bart's dad (2 wds)
6 Ready to propose (3 wds)
12 Disney's Winnie
14 "We — The World"
15 Santa — winds
16 Incline
19 Boat growth
20 Strut
21 Riga is here
23 Sundae toppers
25 Actor Robert
26 "Have a bite" (2 wds)
27 Small mountains
28 Lennox and Leibovitz
30 Leave quickly: — — powder
31 Heavenly glow
34 Determine value
36 Beyond what's expected (2 wds)
38 FBI agent (Hyph)
40 Ice house
41 Money owed
42 Help a criminal
44 Head Dr.
46 Singer Stewart
47 Cooking additive
49 Dollar bills
50 Accomplishes
51 Chop up
52 Eyebrow shape
54 "Shake like — —"
56 Spanish ones
58 Apple drink
59 They're not aliases (2 wds)
63 Sink
66 Crafting need
68 British football
70 Sobs
71 Pick up the tab
73 Old theater feature
75 Not too bright
77 Tracking device
79 Actor Murphy
81 It ran away with the spoon
82 Johnny —
84 Look up to
86 Most sensible
87 A way to go
88 Take heed
90 Grassy meadow
92 Actor Morales
94 Singer Turner
96 Springsteen's nickname
97 Dogsled command
98 Simple
100 Third planet
101 Cable channel
102 Titan
103 —-Kettering Institute
104 Give a job
106 Greek god
107 Transport
109 Little bit (SI)
111 Actress Sarandon
112 Nursery rhyme girl
114 Opera star Geraldine
116 Perfectly suited
117 Camera need
118 Actor's grp.
119 On-line chuckle
120 Personal histories, for short
122 One TV show
125 Couple
128 "To — is human"
129 Talk, gab
130 Wisemen
131 Purchase
132 Poor one
135 Hook together
138 Canyon comeback
140 Steeped drink
141 Priest's garment
143 Route
144 Deliberately deceive (2 wds)
147 Famous Helen
149 Fervent, passionate
151 Begin
154 DeGeneres and Barkin
156 Store goods (Abbr)
159 Roof edge
160 Quarterback Dan
161 Released from bondage
162 Tropical fruit
167 Starbucks order
168 Picnic offering
169 "No man — — island..."
170 Back muscles, for short
171 Miner's find, maybe (2 wds)
174 Canned seafood
176 Thorny flower
177 Male heir
179 Hawaiian verandas
181 Bug's antenna
183 Lavin and Evans
185 Breakfast choice
187 Elder citizens (Abbr)
189 Look after
190 Low joint
191 Puts on cargo
192 "— go bragh!"
193 Sheep tender
195 Dark color
197 Moron
199 Certain prisoner
202 Queen of Columbus
204 Singer Parton
206 Go with
209 Cook eggs in water
211 Small bites
213 Actor Leonard
215 Army cops (Abbr)
216 Model wood
217 Ms. West and namesakes
220 Baker Lee
222 Singer McEntire
223 Genetic material
225 Munched on
227 Jai —
229 Apothecary weight
231 Playwright Edward
232 Grizzly or polar
233 Cunning
235 Banishes
237 Grandma to some
238 More slick
239 Lots (SI)
241 This one and this one
242 Large nerve
243 Equestrian's activity
245 Office board
246 Strategy
247 Washington and Shore
248 Weather outlook
249 Hall monitor's request
250 Not dis?
251 "Fit — — fiddle"
252 Medicinal amount
253 Factory feature (2 wds)
254 Settlement

DOWN

1 Sharpen
2 Tara residents
3 Martin, Pickford and Astor
4 Kind words
5 Grammatical construction
7 Post-shower garb
8 Was green, so to speak
9 Carpentry spikes
10 Buy milk, maybe
11 Deserve
12 Blunt haircuts
13 Detailed
17 Sycophant
18 Dressing gown
19 Cooked in the oven
20 Talk idly
22 Hawaiian hello
24 Monica of tennis
25 Chunk of cash
29 Letters of distress
32 Military foray
33 Baseball's Doubleday
35 Postal abbr.
37 "Believe It — Not"
38 Fantastic
39 Grad school degrees (Abbr)
43 Neutral shade
45 Beach bird
48 Napoleon's isle
51 Outcast
52 Warned
53 Massachusetts site
58 Study at the last minute
59 Actor O'Neal
60 Covered with
61 Windows precursor (2 wds)
62 Mix
64 Bird's bed
65 Actor Richard
67 Strange thing
69 Smart
72 Quit
74 A car, slangily
76 Arm muscles
78 Investigating officers (Abbr)
80 Sunset time
81 Bother
82 Laws
83 Honks
84 Producer Spelling
85 Follow after
88 Like some space missions
89 Singer Judd
90 Actor Paul
91 Heavenly messenger
93 Deli buy
95 Church areas
97 Taj —
99 Refused (2 wds)
105 Writer's inspiration
106 Court defense
108 Cafe au —
110 Strong wind
112 Flintstone's town
113 Business associate
114 Baby's drink
115 River craft
117 Actor Greene
121 "The — Of Music"
123 School org.
124 Understand
126 Synonym (Abbr)
127 British raincoat
132 Hard rain
133 Ballot casters
134 Competition for us
135 Ice cream holder
136 Crowd of actors?
137 Ripped
139 Kids' card game (2 wds)
140 High schoolers
142 Comic Butler
143 Income
144 Playroom blocks
145 Like a gnome
146 Cager Shaquille
148 Pre-law exams (Abbr)
150 Bit of info
151 Hair spot
152 Classroom helpers
153 Kitchen gadget
155 Upper House
157 From Seoul
158 Make happy
160 Docking spot
163 Scam
164 Reason to yawn
165 Sour cream servings
166 Fix clothes
170 Michael of "Bonanza"
172 Old keepsake
173 Roundup rope
175 The Dark Continent
178 Hawaiian island
180 Geek (SI)
182 Irish singer
184 Go against
186 Cast a line
188 Dinner bread
194 In twos (2 wds)
195 Fudd of cartoons
196 Invitation inits.
198 Sprites
200 Translucent stone
201 Pitcher Ryan
203 Work out
205 Italian money
207 Parade dropping
208 Countrywide
210 Big continent
211 Corporate bigwig
212 Spanish dish
214 Big boat
216 Foundation
218 Sportswear company
219 Virtuous one
220 Film speed: — -mo
221 Think about too much
223 Darla or Spanky
224 Locator word
225 Chopping tool
226 Texas city (2 wds)
228 Another Texas city
230 Actress Ryan
234 Set to go
236 Actor Hawke
240 "Born Free" lioness
244 Computer symbol

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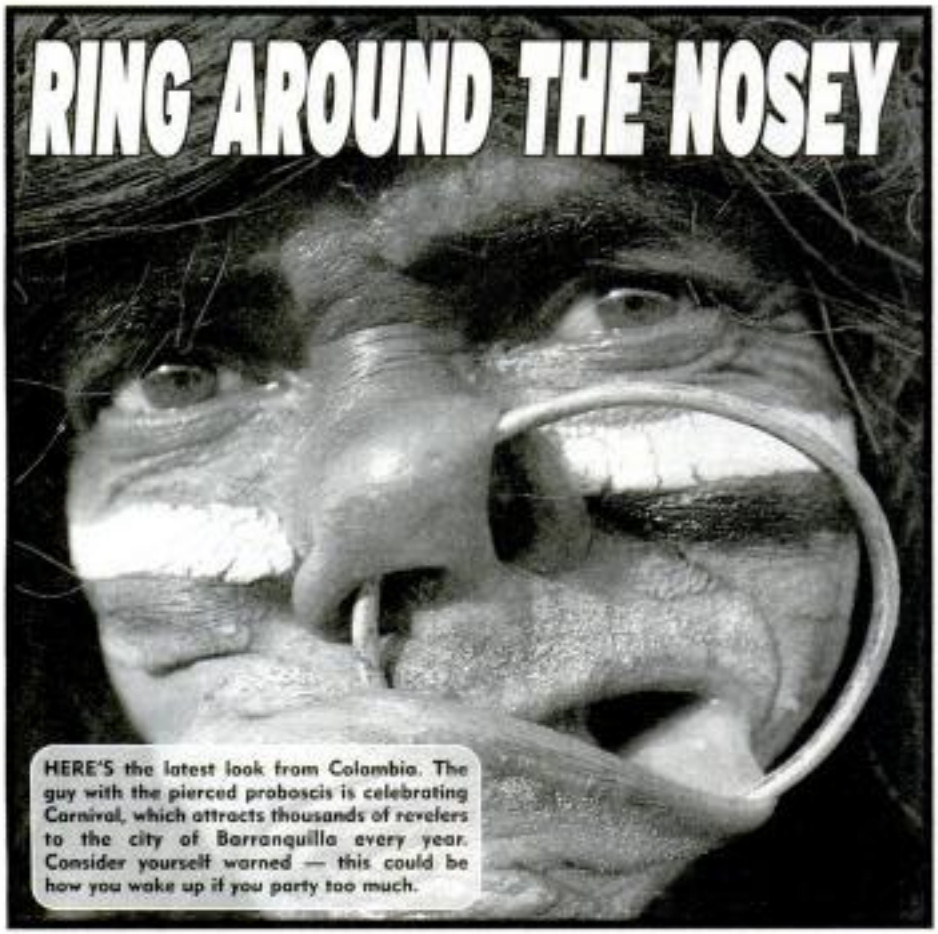

HERE'S the latest look from Colombia. The guy with the pierced proboscis is celebrating Carnival, which attracts thousands of revelers to the city of Barranquilla every year. Consider yourself warned — this could be how you wake up if you party too much.

Al Qaeda 'rogues' are armed and dangerous

A DANGEROUS rogue organization within Al Qaeda plans to carry out a fresh wave of attacks on innocent Americans, the CIA has learned.

Frustrated that mainstream Al Qaeda leaders like Osama Bin Laden and his immediate underlings have ordered no new terrorist strikes on U.S. soil since 9/11, influential members of the newly emerged splinter group have vowed to take matters into their own capable hands, CIA insiders confirmed recently.

"These guys are really crazy and extremely ruthless — even the regular Al Qaeda folks are scared of them and have for some time been trying without luck to rein them in and control their movement," says a reliable Central Intelligence Agency source.

"They're loose cannons with ultra-extreme views and beliefs in regard to their Jihad.

"To them, Osama Bin Laden has been too timid with his terrorist efforts. There's no telling what they might do, but it's likely to be spectacular."

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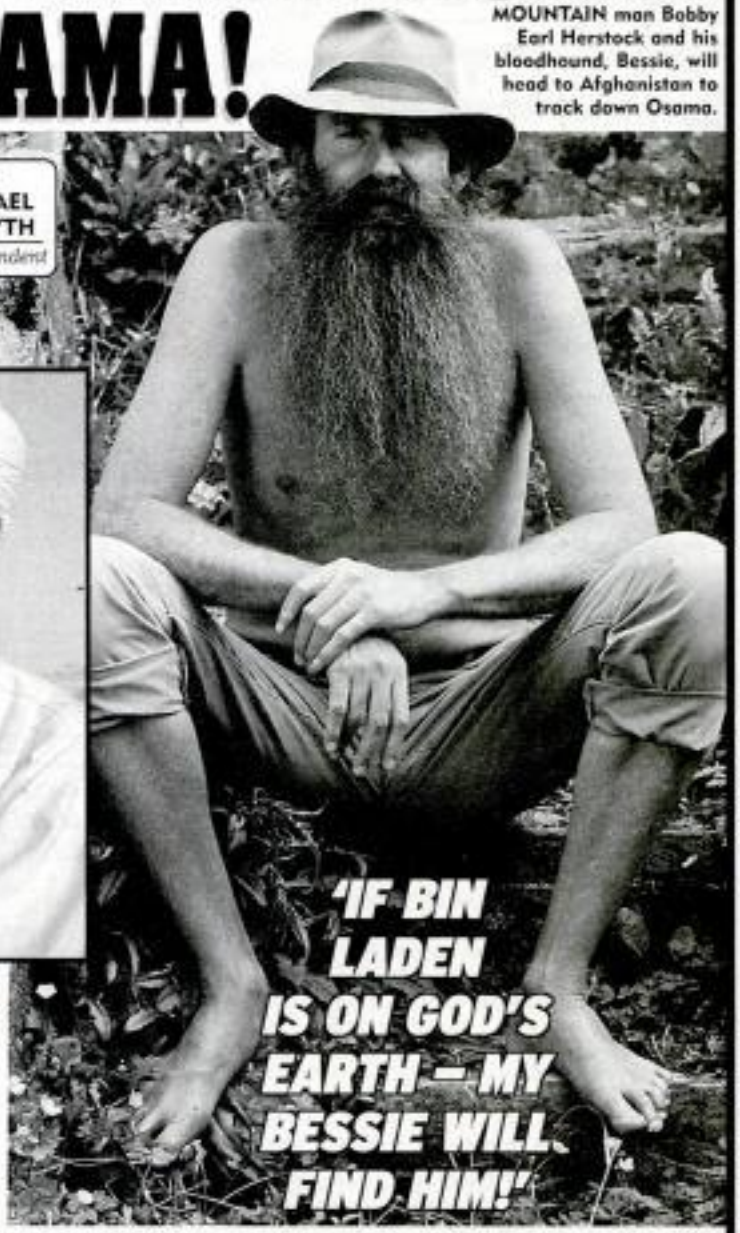
AADY001

HILLBILLY: MY HOUND DOG WILL TRACK DOWN OSAMA!



MOUNTAIN man Bobby Earl Herstock and his bloodhound, Bessie, will head to Afghanistan to track down Osama.

By MICHAEL FORSYTH
Correspondent

SNAGGLE-TOOTHED, shotgun-toting hillbilly Bobby Earl Herstock has vowed to track down elusive terror chief Osama Bin Laden — with the help of his faithful hound dog Bessie!

Bessie the bloodhound is the best hunting dog in the world, according to her proud owner, who claims her nose is five times more sensitive than any other on record.

"That son of a gun can hole up in any hollow he wants, you just put Bessie within 5,000 miles of him and she'll run him down like a coon or a possum," says 44-year-old Herstock, who lives outside Kingsport, Tenn.

"If Bin Laden is on God's Earth," he vows, "my Bessie will find him."

Despite recent claims that the U.S. is "closer than ever" to capturing the kill-crazy 9/11 mastermind, as of press time, the Marines, CIA and other forces involved in history's most intense manhunt have failed to snare him.

That's been frustrating to ultra-patriotic Herstock, who decided to join the search after his favorite nephew was wounded in Iraq.

"When my nephew Dalton got ambushed, that was the last straw," Herstock recalls. "I rubbed Bessie's ears and I said, 'Well, looks like it's up to you and me, girl.' "

While it may sound like Herstock's been chugging a little too much moonshine, pooches are already playing a vital role in the war on terror. Dogs are being used at airports

ceptionally sensitive, even for a dog. A typical bloodhound's sense of smell is one million times more acute than a human's, but Bessie's is 5 million times more acute.

"Some scientists heard about Bessie and did the tests," Herstock says. "Shoot, Bessie can tell identical twins apart. Ain't another bloodhound in the world who can do that."

Dr. Anne Grestwood, a university professor who teaches veterinary medicine, performed the tests.

"An ordinary bloodhound can detect one ounce of vanillaldehyde diffused in a sealed room containing 33 cubic miles of air," explains the expert.

"Bessie could detect the chemical in 160 cubic miles of air."

Bessie's ability to sniff out trouble is so remarkable, law enforcement

Among 6-year-old Bessie's amazing feats, she:

- Located a missing 4-year-old girl who wandered off from a camping site.
- Helped to capture an escaped convict, although he'd crossed three deep, fast-moving streams.
- Tracked a murderer down after locating a corpse in the woods — even though the body had been there

istan at his own expense and pick up the trail at the Tora Bora cave complex that was Bin Laden's last known hideout.

He says all Bessie will need is an article of clothing worn by the Al Qaeda honcho, "anything from a turban to dirty drawers."

He expects U.S. authorities in possession of such a garment will willingly turn it over to him.

"I figure they've tried everything

WEB SEARCH TURNS BLIND DATE INTO BUST!

A GUY'S upcoming blind date went bust when the woman checked his name on the Internet, found he was a wanted fugitive and had him arrested!

The smart cookie, who has not been identified, did her homework after agreeing to meet LaShawn Pettus-Brown at an Applebee's restaurant on Long Island, N.Y.

A quick background check using the popular Internet search engine Google, revealed that there was an FBI warrant out for her would-be beau's arrest on fraud charges in Cincinnati.

Which ruled out any chance of a love connection.

She alerted authorities and when the on-the-run Romeo arrived at the restaurant, he was stunned to find cops waiting to greet him-instead of his blind date.

Pettus-Brown was nabbed and is expected to be extradited to Cincinnati soon, according to the Web site www.azcentral.com.

WOMAN, 79 DIES IN MEATLOAF EXPLOSION!

The last thing 79-year-old Helga Kruger saw before she "went home to Jesus" was the homemade meat loaf that mysteriously exploded — and darn near blew her head off.

"She never knew what hit her," said a cop in Frankfurt, Germany, where investigators are still trying to find out what caused the meal to blow up with such force that it snapped the old woman's neck, killing her instantly.

A relative said: "She was a wonderful Christian woman but she never did learn how to cook. At least I know she went home to Jesus. And she'll be eating better, for sure."

SHE LIKES IT! Despite the fact that Abe was assassinated, Mrs. Lincoln revealed she rather liked the play they were watching.

HOW DID MRS. LINCOLN ENJOY THE PLAY?

Mary Todd Lincoln

"OTHER than that, Mrs. Lincoln, how did you enjoy the play?"

The widowed former first lady actually provided an answer to that question in an interview with an Illinois journalist two years before her death in 1882.

Mary Todd Lincoln said that she "rather liked" the production of *Our American Cousin*, the play that was being performed at Ford's Theater on the night of April 14, 1865 when her husband was shot by John Wilkes Booth.

President Abraham Lincoln

"I always wondered how it turned out," Mrs. Lincoln told the reporter.

The play was interrupted when Booth, himself a well-known actor, shot Honest Abe in the head, then leapt onto the stage, dramatically shouting "Sic semper tyrannis!" — Latin for "Ever thus to tyrants!" — before fleeing on horseback.

The murder marked the first assassination of a U.S. President. It also marked the first known use of an ad-lib on an American stage, when lead actress Laura Keene had the presence of mind to roll her eyes as Booth ran offstage, and mutter, "Some hams just can resist stealing a scene."

The revelations about Mary Todd Lincoln's critique appear in a new biography of the controversial first lady.

STEALING THE SHOW: John Wilkes Booth upstaged actress Laura Keene during *Our American Cousin*.

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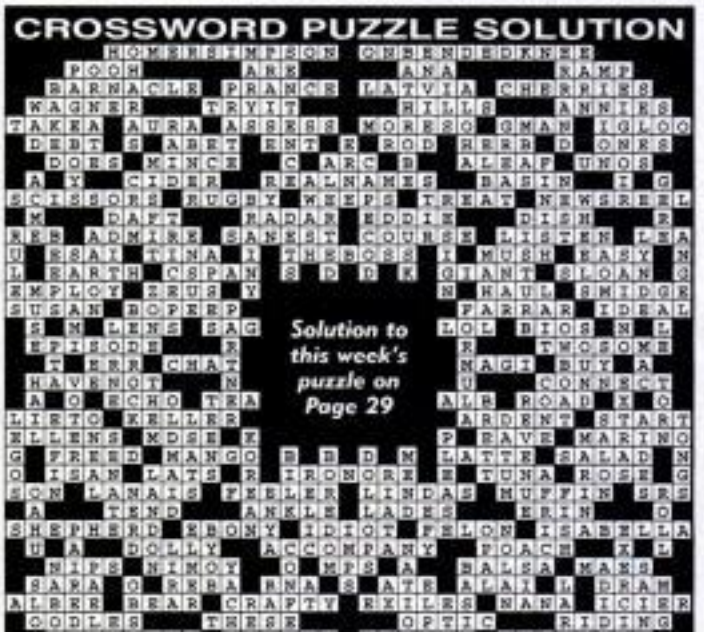

Solution to this week's puzzle on Page 29

DEVIL'S TRIANGLE TURNS FLAT-CHESTED SAILOR INTO 55DD STUNNER!

CINDY GAREL entered the Devil's Triangle a 32A and came out a 55DD. "It's a miracle!" says Garel, who vows to use her new breasts well.

FLAT-CHESTED beauty student Cindy Garel claims to have sprouted 55DD miracle hooters — bang, just like that — while sailing through a mystery cloud in the Devil's Triangle.

And the formerly bo-hum hair stylist wanna-be says she couldn't be happier, because even though the gargantuan bazookas "are a handful, I've prayed for something like this to happen all my life."

"I knew the Devil's Triangle was a strange place where ships and planes disappear, but I never expected anything like this to happen in a million years," says the suddenly chesty 22-year-old woman.

Her boyfriend, college student John Gusterman, says he's "dancing a jig, too."

Garel, he explains, "was a sweet lady but nothing special up top" until the two of them decided to rent a speedboat and zip over to the Bahamas, through the heart of the Triangle, during spring break.

Just 45 minutes after they rented the boat and set a course for the half-day trip, Garel noticed floating bras and swimsuit tops in the calm but strangely ominous waters ahead of them.

And just beyond that, she recalls, "was a big dark cloud. But it wasn't in the sky. It was hovering right over the water. And it sparkled like it had glitter in it, or little blinking Christmas lights.

"I told John to steer away from it, and he tried to. But when he turned left, the cloud moved to our left. When he turned to the right, it moved with us.

"It was like it had a mind of its own.

"It started moving toward us until we were completely inside of it," she continues. "And it sapped our energy — we couldn't move."

Just then, says Garel, "I felt a stirring in my chest. And then, all of a sudden, my breasts started getting bigger and bigger, like somebody was pumping them up with air. Then my bikini top just popped right off.

"I looked at John and he was just, like, slack jawed. I remember him saying real slowly, 'Yoooooourrrrrrr breeeeeeeaaassstts ...'

"Then we both just sank down to the deck of the boat and went to sleep."

When they awakened, mid morning had turned into late afternoon — and the cloud was gone.

"I started yelling and screaming, 'Oh my God! Oh my God! John — look. I've got big boobs! I've got big boobs! Oh my God! They're huge! It's a miracle!'" recalls Garel.

"He hugged me and kissed me and pinched me lightly a couple of times to make sure my breasts were real and he wasn't dreaming.

"Then he checked inside his pants to see if anything good had happened for him, too."

Gusterman says he was unchanged but still thrilled for Garel, who was yelling at him to get back to Miami so she could show her family and friends.

Garel's new breasts are 55DDs. By way of comparison — and her doctor backs this up — her originals as measured during a January breast exam were minuscule 32As.

The physician says she can't explain what caused Garel's breasts to spontaneously grow to a size seldom seen outside the shower stall at a fat farm or onstage at a topless bar.

But she confirms that they are both healthy and completely natural, with no surgical alterations.

For her part, Garel plans to make good use of her new breasts "from now on."

"I'm going to the pool or beach every day and I'm buying new clothes that will flatter and showcase my bosom for the whole world to see," she gushes.

"I'm really, really grateful for what happened out there," she adds. "The Devil's Triangle might sink ships and make airplanes crash, but it was awfully good to me."

— *By KENT WESTMORE*

BERMUDA FACTS

- Bermuda may be haunted! More than 20 people have vanished without a trace. Legend says the ghostly kidnapper may be one of the original inhabitants, whose heart is buried in its sands.
- Bermuda consists of about 150 islands, but only 20 are inhabited.
- The islands were formed by volcanic rock that is topped by coral formations.
- The islands have no rivers, lakes or fresh water wells, so citizens have to depend on rain water.
- Bermuda has the world's highest personal income, except for the Middle Eastern oil kingdoms.

By KITTY FINE/Correspondent

SIDESHOWS RUNNING OUT OF FREAKS!

FAT BOY and Living Skeleton are shown here in the 1920s, when the carnival was in its heyday.

CARNIVAL sideshows are suffering a crisis that threatens to destroy one of America's most beloved institutions: They are running out of freaks!

And industry analysts blame cosmetic surgeons, beauty salons and antidiscrimination laws for cutting into the supply of Siamese twins, bearded ladies, hermaphrodites and other misshapen and misbegotten outcasts.

"It used to be that the traveling freak show was the only refuge for these pitiful souls, whose deformities once caused them to be cruelly tossed out of normal society," says Maury Nefkind, vice president of the Carnivals Division of the U.S. Association of Amusement Providers. "The sideshow enabled the freak to be self-supporting and, more importantly, offered shelter from the cruel taunts and abuse of the outside world."

But the last few years have seen a sharp decline in the number of freaks working in sideshows, he says.

Surgeons are separating Siamese twins, removing extra limbs, and whittling immensely fat people down to normal size with stomach-stapling procedures. Bearded women and dog-faced boys are undergoing electrolysis and plastic surgery to look normal.

"But thanks to laws protecting the disabled from discrimination, many freaks don't have to do a thing about their deformities," he adds. "Very few employers or landlords are willing to risk a multimillion-dollar lawsuit by refusing a job or an apartment to someone with Elephant Man's Disease, or to someone who's half-man and half-woman."

Nefkind says the growth of sensationalism in the media has also hurt the freak-show business.

"Carnival wages are notoriously low, and the living conditions can be pretty rough," he says. "A two-headed woman or a guy with no internal organs can sell their story to some book publisher or TV, and they're set for life. Why should they bust their stump working in a sideshow?"

Nefkind says the nation's 267 sideshows now average only eight to 10 freaks apiece, the lowest number since a peak average of 17 freaks in 1928. "And those numbers don't even portray the true crisis level of the freak-show population," he adds. "The number of sideshows themselves has dropped to disturbing levels — once we had nearly 1,000 of them criss-crossing the country. But without enough appalling, frightening-looking freaks to attract audiences, many have gone out of business."

The situation is even more urgent as today's freak-show performers die off or retire.

"Where," Nefkind laments, "are the freaks of tomorrow coming from?"

ADVANCES in medical science mean that Siamese twins, once destined to live

The crisis has sideshows "barely hanging on," says Frank Goolsby, owner of Dr. Ghoul's Funhouse of Freaks and Geeks.

"I've run this show from Maine to California for 30 years, and it's never been this bad," says Goolsby, during a stop in rural Missouri. "It used to be you could count on recruiting at least three or four new freaks every season, sometimes more. Now you're lucky if you get one."

Goolsby's top acts are disappearing quickly. Helena the Human Skeleton was lured away by a Paris modeling agency. Tommy the Torso — a man with no legs — is mulling an offer from a Hollywood producer. And Goolsby's 600-pound Fat Lady recently started the Atkins Diet. "I bet she quits me before we hit Montana," he says.

That leaves people like Rubber Girl, a 7-foot-tall woman with double-jointed limbs. She's been with Dr. Ghoul for more than 20 years, she says.

"I'd never leave Frank — he's been too good to me," she says. "I

Fortunately, Goolsby says, he still has plenty of geeks.

"Sometimes the geeks actually do better than the freaks," he says. "People feel like they're making fun of the freaks, who can't help how they are. But a guy who'll bite the head off a chicken or stick needles in his eye, they figure it was his idea so they don't have anything to feel guilty about."

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

- **It takes 175 people to assemble the approximately 500 tons of equipment for a show by the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus — "The Greatest Show on Earth."**
- **In 1914, the word "geek" originally referred to a person in a circus sideshow who would bite the heads off chickens or snakes.**
- **P.T. Barnum created a spectacle when he hitched an elephant to a plow beside the train tracks to announce that his circus had come to town. As a result, Barnum attracted many newsmen and the**

DEAD OR ALIVE?

These stars hooked us on an ocean adventure that had us reeling, but now they're a bunch of landlubbers again. Who's living, and who's down in Davy Jones' Locker? (Answers below.)

This was no ordinary fish story, but one of the scariest movies ever to hit the screen — at least, that's how people felt when it ripped across the screen in 1975. Based on a best-selling novel by Peter Benchley, *Jaws* is the story of a pretty little Cape Cod village threatened by a series of killings by a Great White Shark roaming offshore, and the mismatched crew of hunters who go after the beast. The movie turned the lead cast members into stars and made the career of its young upstart director. From left: Robert Shaw (old-salt boat captain QUINT), Roy Scheider (uncertain Police Chief MARTIN BRODY), director Steven Spielberg and Richard Dreyfuss (swaggering shark expert MATT HOOPER). Not seen: Bruce, the mechanical contraption that was the shark.

MYSTERY EYES

Here are close-ups of three gals and two guys whose eyes give them a distinctive look. These famous folks have some very FLOWERY NAMES — can you pick them out of this visual bouquet? Answers are below.

She might have been First Galpal.

Pirate life hasn't been a curse for him.

Charmed, we're sure!

We bet you'll bat .1000 on this guy.

She always does her best in the show.

WHO ARE THEY?

1) Gentilor Flowers | 4) Pete Rose
2) Orlando Bloom | 5) Parker Posey
3) Rose McGowan

Robert Shaw died of a heart attack in August 1978 at age 51. Roy Scheider, who starred in one of the three *Jaws* sequels, is 71. Steven Spielberg is 57. Richard Dreyfuss is 56.

YOUR TAROT FORTUNE REVEALED! (From Page 27)

Card No. 3: 7 of Cups
SELF-DIRECTION

Love: It's time to take control in this area and find your own heart's desire. Stop settling for "good enough," and go for what you really want. You could just get it.

Money: An investment opportunity will come your way. It will entail great risk but could also pay off big. Consider it, but don't invest the rent money.

Health: You have lots of questions for your doctor, but may be feeling shy about asking them. Speak up — she won't object, and

Card No. 5: 2 of Swords
DANGER AHEAD

Love: You'll be tempted by an alluring stranger who seems to offer everything you've been seeking. Be careful: You may be nothing but a brief fling for this person.

Money: The stock market's been like a roller coaster, and your financial advisers could be taking you for a ride. Keep an eye on them.

Health: Alternative medical treatments such as acupuncture can really help you, but some of them are pure quackery. Don't fall

Card No. 1: Hierophant
CHALLENGES

Love: Couples will find their relationship tested by outside forces, but may also find themselves strengthened in the end. Singles should not accept any blind dates this week.

Money: Your budget skills will soon be put to the test. Pinch pennies now and avoid splurging on extra expenses to start building an emergency cushion.

Health: A minor illness threatens to sap much of your strength. Review your diet and talk to your doctor about vitamins and other

Card No. 2: 8 of Coins
TIME TO SHINE

Love: A romantic getaway to a place you've never been, even for just a few hours, will cure the boredom in your relationship. Singles, make an extra effort to meet new people.

Money: Recognition at work may be eluding you because you're reluctant to toot your own horn. Make sure your boss knows how well you're performing.

Health: Adding some color to your outfit this week will lift your spirits, and may win you some attention. Treat yourself to

Card No. 4: 7 of Wands
GREAT BURDENS

Love: Your partner has some troubling news to share but is worried about opening up. Be ready to listen. Singles, your friends are waiting for you to start leaning on them for help.

Money: Make sure all warranties and insurance policies are current and paid up. An unexpected repair to your home or car could bust your budget.

Health: Anxiety from uncertainties in your life can weigh you down and even cause physical problems. Seek out a trusted

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DEAD ZOMBIE HOOKERS STILL SELL SEX!

By JANE MARX
Correspondent

FORCED into prostitution by voodoo pimps, the zombie hookers lure men from dark alleys of major cities.

Nightstalkers feed on the flesh of sex-hungry johns!

YOU'D better look closely at the next girl giving you a sexy come-on from some dark alley — she may be a zombie!

Vice cops say the streetwalking dead are showing up in red-light districts in major U.S. cities, including New York, Chicago and Miami. They warn that trafficking with the hellish hussies is not for the faint of heart or weak of stomach.

"They work in darkness, in barely lit alleys. From a distance they look just as hot and sexy as any human whore," says a patrol officer in Miami, which has been plagued with zombies smuggled from nearby Haiti. "By the time the john gets close enough to see their ripped, rotting flesh, it's too late.

"A surprising number of men are actually into this, especially if they got to know this type of woman back in Haiti," he says, "you've had a zombie hooker you'll never go back to the living.'

"But most guys I know wouldn't be caught dead with the undead — and whether you like these ghoulish gals or not, you deserve to know what you're getting into."

Experts on Haiti say ordinary women of the island nation are being forced into zombie prostitution by voodoo priests, who create sex slaves for leaders of organized crime — just as they turn other men and women into mindless field workers or household help. Many of the zombie women are being smuggled into the U.S. to ply their perverted trade here.

But lawmen say native-born American hookers now are also falling under voodoo spells. "It appears that some pimps are learning voodoo to keep the girls from quitting," says a Chicago vice cop.

Immigration officials say it's difficult to deport the illegal-alien zombies back to Haiti, since they

lines," says a spokesman for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. "We are seeking legal opinion from INS counsel, and hope to have a determination within a few weeks."

And some cops admit that they're avoiding arresting the zombies.

"Frankly, a lot of officers are a little scared of these girls, and I can't say I blame them," says a New York City sergeant. "If we catch a zombie and a john in the act, of course we'll do our duty. But if it's just a zombie hanging out on a street corner enticing men, we'll look the other way as long as she moves along."

A Miami cop disagrees: "It's not that we're scared. I just feel sorry for the girls, and I don't want to add to their troubles. None of them really want to do this, but they have no choice."

Their clients don't seem to have much choice either.

a Miami businessman who says he was lured to a zombie hooker's alley and found himself paying the undead harlot for strange sexual acts. "When I came to my senses she was gone, but there was a putrid smell in the air — like rotting flesh.

"I feel pretty lousy about the whole experience," he complains.

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS APRIL 5

Tiger woman sparks a riot

CHAOS resulting in a riot in which 50 people were arrested erupted in Iran, following reports of a half-woman, half-tigress afoot in the land.

The trouble began when rumors surfaced that the striped, tiger-headed lady was going to be hanged in the city of Qom, the clerical capital of the ultra-orthodox Islamic state.

A huge crowd gathered at the city square to witness the spectacle, according to the *Jamhuri-Eslami* newspaper. But people were blocked by police who claimed the rumors were unfounded and ordered them to disperse. Unconvinced, irate citizens demanded that cops produce the tiger woman — and when that failed to occur, all hell broke lose.

The word on the street was that the woman had been normal until she insulted religious values during the fasting month of Ramadan. As divine punishment, in accordance with folklore, the sinner's head was turned into that of a wild animal.

"Drawings of the woman with the head of a tigress were even distributed in the city, especially in schools," a local journalist told western reporters.

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WOMEN

MI. 202-595 Correctional institute inmate. Warm-hearted, vivacious, kind, loving, SBF. ISO supportive, loyal, passionate man to grow with. Loves laughter and affection. Are you looking for me? Age/race unimportant.

ME. 202-596 Fun-loving, 65 years young, SWF ISO honest, drug-free SWM. I am 5'6", brown eyes/hair and 150 lbs. Age unimportant. Photo first letter.

CA. 202-597 DWF, sincere, old-fashioned morals, 65, attractive, healthy, open mind, easygoing, affectionate, fun-loving, intelligent, dynamic, adventurous, love music, alive. Looking for same, romantic, honest mate.

PHILIPPINES 202-598 Single Filipina, 28 years old, seeking serious, marriage-minded man, age between 40-60. Photo/phone.

CT. 202-599 SWF, 58, 5'3", 125 lbs., attractive, intelligent, great personality, good sense of humor. Enjoys nature, walking, music, dancing, traveling, pets. Can relocate. Interested to meet trustworthy, considerate, fit, White gentleman. Photo appreciated.

IL. 202-600 Attractive, divorced, brunette in 50s, 5'7", 135 lbs. Seeking nice, non-smoking gentleman, 54-66 for lasting relationship. Photo please.

TN. 202-601 Cinderella seeking Prince Charming! Held captive by loneliness. Can you bring a smile to my face? Write and I'll tell all. 5'8", 130 lbs.

MD. 202-602 Lonely, single, dark blonde, blue eyes, 5'4", 125 lbs., wants to meet a good, honest, caring, Native American for friendship, no drugs/alcohol. Please write.

VA. 202-603 White widow, retired nurse, dark brown hair, hazel eyes, 5'3", 110 lbs., mid-70s, good health, ISO nice White man, good morals, honest, trustworthy, good health, financially secure.

VA. 202-604 Black, light female seeking kind-hearted male of any race who enjoys the finer and simpler things in life for possible relationship.

PA. 202-605 DWCF, 55, plus-size, retired nurse, enjoys nature, music, reading, movies, cooking. Seeking kind, caring, honest, non-smoker for friendship/companionship.

CA. 202-606 Widow, 65, 5'2", red hair, 140 lbs. ISO White gentleman, 60-70, non-smoker, light drinker, likes walks, movies. The second half of life is waiting for you. No inmates. Photo/phone.

IL. 202-607 South American/European mix female, 29, 220 lbs., with psoriasis seeking a mature, open-minded, understanding male for a serious relationship. Age is open. Letters/photos appreciated.

NM. 202-608 I'm a 39 year old Black female who prefers Black and White men, race unimportant. I need a man who can satisfy me sexually and financially in return for a beautiful, lasting marriage filled with hot passion. No inmates.

AZ. 202-609 Pretty, classy, English, SWF, blonde/blue, 47, 5'7", slim, non-smoker, no dependents. Like hockey and football. ISO SWM, tall, 40-60, with kind heart. Forever. Photo please.

MEN

PA. 401-331 Loving Black male, 54, 6', 230 lbs., seeking childless, relocatable, junior-sized, southern Black female, 18-36 for early marriage. I need a serious mature, good woman.

NY. 401-332 Correctional institute inmate. Financially secure boy-toy, SWM, 175 lbs., muscular, 5'11", released end of 2004, homeowner, multiple citizenships/languages. Seeking naughty/nice female for LTR, 18 plus, sexy. Photo/phone.

KS. 401-333 Handsome man, financially stable in 3 years, very, very, financially stable. Early 50s, built nice, slim, hard worker, very romantic, faithful, White. I know how to treat a woman. My future woman will come first. I have no baggage.

MI. 401-334 Correctional institute inmate. Lonely, SWM, 6'1", 200 lbs., 40, seeking SWF, 18-40, for friendship, maybe more. Photo/phone.

IL. 401-335 Young man seeking older woman. SBM, 6', 220 lbs., employed, student, screenwriter. You, older female, financially secure, into younger man. Race open. Serious inquiries only.

MB. 401-336 SWM, 54, sane, easygoing and submissive. Would like to meet a compassionate, outgoing, dominant woman who prefers to control her relationships and men.

CA. 401-337 SWM, 6'1", 265 lbs., Christian, retired and looking for marriage to a non-drinking, relocatable, disease/drug-free Christian woman, 45-50. Photo a plus.

IL. 401-338 White male, 40, relocatable, seeking lady 21-70, unable to have children, childless. Wants love, intimacy nightly, favorite large or older lady. Southern Illinois, midwest. Photo/ phone.

NJ. 401-339 Single handsome man, 39, 6'1", 190 lbs., enjoys camping, guitar. Seeking woman who lives in New Jersey, or able to relocate. Age/ race unimportant.

FL. 401-340 WM, 67, 6'4½", 196 lbs., would love to hear from Filipina from mid-40s to mid-60s for LTR filled with love. Photo please.

VA. 401-341 SWM, 25, 5'9", 180 lbs., black hair, blue eyes, loyal, loving, honest. Enjoys outdoors. Seeking SWF, LTR, marriage, age open, no drug users, relocatable.

GA. 401-342 Successful, tall, tan, handsome, highly educated, childless, Indian American seeking non-smoker, childless, female 18-45. Any race/location, any build, but shapely. Reply all with photo.

NJ. 401-343 Secure, tall, handsome, blonde, single male, 55. Seeking one good, loving, Black female with thick natural hair, any style. Any reply welcome. No married women.

WY. 401-344 WM, 60s, honest, romantic, looking for WF, 55-75, slim/average, honest, romantic, for long term relationship. Please send phone and photo.

AR. 401-345 Tall, trim, healthy gentleman, 74, kind, amiable, affectionate, worldly, modest income. Like animals, rural living, history, classical music, aviation. Seeking warm, educated modern lady.

ME. 401-346 Mature WM ISO good woman for soul mate. Age/race open. Must be open-minded, love outdoors, drug/disease-free. Phone/photo, will answer all.

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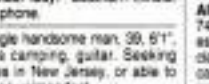

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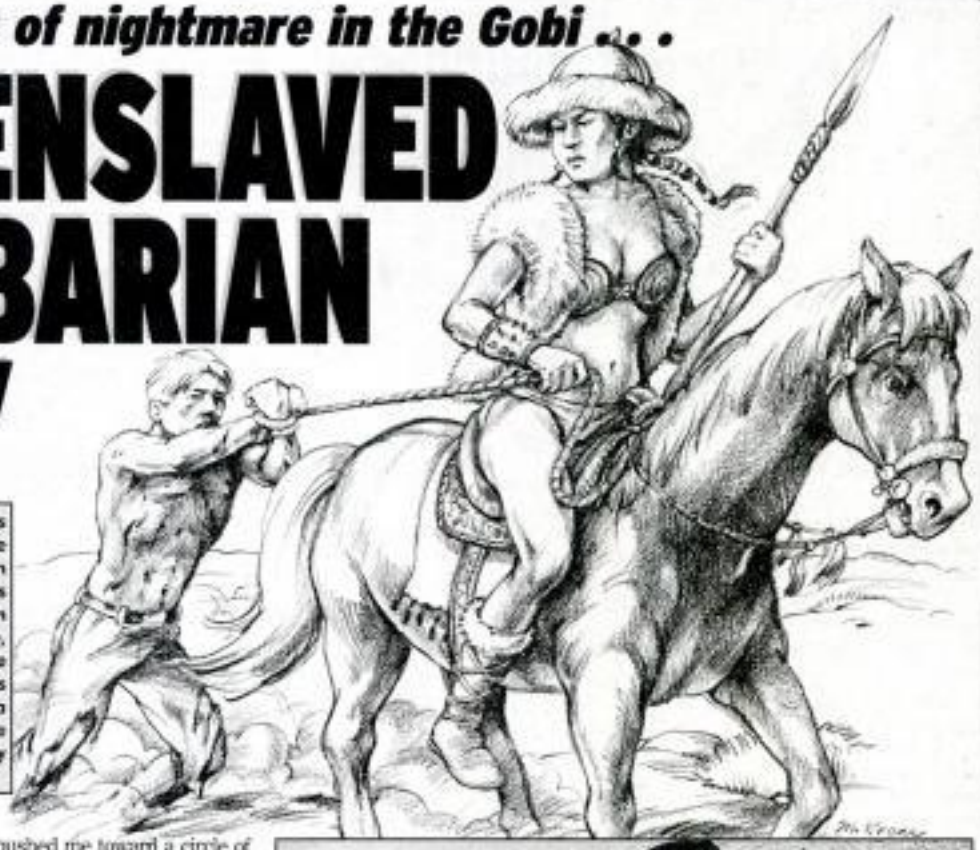
Archaeologist tells of nightmare in the Gobi . . .

'I WAS ENSLAVED BY BARBARIAN BIMBOS'



DR. ANTHONY PINE was studying the remains of an ancient Buddhist temple in the remote Gobi Desert on the Manchurian border when mounted female Mongol raiders swept into his camp. Pine's brother archaeologists, both of them old men, were killed by the barbarians — but Pine, 35, was captured alive. For the next three years he was a slave of the women and had to trek across great reaches of the Gobi, led by a rope behind a horse. Pine was made to work and he says the women treated their dogs better than him. Finally he was freed by Chinese border police.

"This can't be happening to me. It must be a dream. Dear God in Heaven, please — let this be a dream!"

That's all I could think when a band of 40 Mongol she-devils on horseback ran roughshod over our encampment, hacking off the heads of my colleagues with flashing swords and scooping me up in less time than it takes me to tell you about it.

Just minutes earlier, life had been good. Our search for relics in the remains of a ninth-century Buddhist temple was bearing fruit.

But that seemed a distant, faded memory now. Seeing your best friends murdered in cold blood will do that, especially when you're straddled stomach-down over a galloping horse with Genghis Khan's great-great-great-great-great-granddaughter pushing a dagger against your throat and hissing in Chinese, "Don't move, white man — I'll kill you!"

You try to process the information. You want to think critically. You want to make the nightmare stop.

But the only thing you can do is beg God to keep you alive long enough to get you out of this mess.

Maybe we rode 10 minutes, maybe an hour. All I know is that as soon as I smelled campfire smoke our horse pulled up fast and whirled to a stop. I was dragged off the horse by my feet and pushed me toward a circle of tents and, just on the perimeter, roped me tightly to a stake. "Sweet Jesus," I thought, "these barbarians are going to burn me alive."

There were times I wished they had.

These women were man-hating nomads who needed a guy like they needed another hole in the head. What they wanted was a slave. And I was elected.

When we camped at night, they kept me tied to the stake — making damn sure I wasn't going anywhere while they slept. During the day, when we traveled, they roped me to a horse — not to its back, but pulled along behind it like a child who was prone to wandering off.

Or a dog.

But the fact is, they treated their dogs better than they treated me. At least dogs got a little meat now and then, or someone patted them on the head.

I got no thanks for grooming their horses, raising their tents, fetching their firewood and digging their latrines. I also tended the sick. I cleaned up their messes. And I buried their dead.

On the rare occasion one of these women wanted sex, I provided that, too. But it wasn't fun, and it wasn't easy — because, well, I'm gay.

I also was there to abuse. I've got the permanently dislocated jaw, burst ear drum and scars on my back to prove it.

"Why don't you just kill me now and get it over with?" That's what I asked Xiumei, the woman who was my owner. She spat at me and said, "You think the Devil will be any easier on you?"

SADISTIC SLUTS kept Dr. Anthony Pine captive in this yurt, a tent used by Mongolian people. He was their slave for three agonizing years.

If you think I'm going to tell you she was as beautiful as she was cruel, you're right. She was. But looks are deceiving. I saw her order the execution of her own sister because she had a headache and her sister dropped a pot, making a sudden, sharp noise.

I also heard her order my death six times, only to change her mind when it occurred to her that she liked having a man to torment.

Time passed slowly in the Gobi if for no other reason than I was worked so hard, starved so completely and beaten so often that it seemed like the suffering would never end. I tried not to think about the world I left behind.

But what I wanted more than anything else was a soft bed and a juicy hamburger and French fries.

The thin soup with cactus bits and years in the desert, I was guessing I was down to about 90.

The morning I awakened to the sound of male voices is one I'll never forget. Chinese border police had Xiumei face-down in the sand — at rifle-point — and it was obvious they had come for me.

It had taken these guys three long years to find me after my relatives reported me missing. But I wasn't angry. I've never been so happy to see a badge.

Once they had me in custody, they fired rifles into the air — a signal for Xiumei and her women to get the hell out of there. I asked why they weren't arrested, and the border police just laughed. They had an "arrangement." I was told by a cop as he zipped up his pants.

Two days later I was in Beijing. Three days after that, Los Angeles. But as secure as I felt, I couldn't help but think those Mongol women are

World's youngest pilot makes a boo-boo

THE world's youngest pilot and his father died when the kid got excited over a flock of birds, **peed in his pants, lost control of his single-engine airplane — and crashed.**

"The last thing we heard over the radio was his father screaming at him to 'forget the birds' and 'pull out of the dive,' " an air traffic controller told reporters in Brisbane, Australia.

"We heard the boy shouting back, 'I can't Daddy. I wet my pants. It's yucky.' Then everything went silent."

Roger Berman, 4, a certified genius with total recall, learned to fly by memorizing flight manuals he found in a public library and then taking a pilot's training course for hands-on experience.

His father, Phillip, 29, knew nothing about flying, but always accompanied the boy on his flights.

Both were killed instantly in the shocking crash. The world's second youngest pilot, 7-year-old Jesus Rodriguez of Mexico City, has moved up a notch to become the world's youngest pilot in the wake of Roger's death.

Surgeons cash out after . . .

MAN SWALLOWS 220 COINS TO WIN BET

A BONEHEADED bar patron swallowed 220 coins to win a bet — and, not surprisingly, the stupid stunt landed him in the hospital.

Gigi Florin, 27, washed down the money with red wine after making the wager with a drinking buddy in a bar in Piatra-Neamt, Romania.

Foolish Florin assured fellow customers that the wine would relax his stomach and the coins would pass through his body without doing any harm.

But moments after swallowing the 220th coin, the man keeled over, groaning, and the worried bartender called an ambulance.

Florin was rushed to a hospital where stunned doctors had to surgically remove the dough.

"When we X-rayed him we found a large pile of coins in his stomach," Dr. Mircy Coada told reporters. "He was like a walking piggy bank and we operated on him immediately."

Incredibly, despite money-hungry Florin's remarkable feat, he lost the bet — his opponent swallowed 350 coins weighing more than 12 pounds.

Unfortunately, the winner wasn't able to collect on the bet. The 62-year-old Frenchman died after doctors' efforts to save his life with stomach surgery failed.

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Girl 'nose' she had a problem

A 22-YEAR-OLD Miami woman sneezed **nonstop for eight hellish months** and even **considered killing herself** before her doctor **figured out she was** allergic **to the** metal **stud she liked to wear in** her nose, *The New England Journal of Medicine* reports.

THEY'RE HISS-TORY . . .

THREE INFANTS were reported missing from an orphanage in Calcutta, India, after nurses found a 26-foot python wrapped around a

children who were two weeks to two months of age, although officials admit it's possible the tots were eaten.

"We know it's a long shot, but we're

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

April 5 - April 11

BY SONYA SABAK Psychic Astrologer to the Rich & Famous

ARIES

Mar. 21 – Apr. 19

The chance for a great new life could be offered to you. Keep your eye out for it, but don't jump helter-skelter without good advice.

It's time to take a good look at yourself. Is it a pretty sight? Are you in control of your life and finances? If the answers are "no," do something about it.

Someone helpful will turn out to be a double-dealer. Be prepared for it.

TAURUS

Apr. 20 – May 20

Watch out for minor health problems this week — you need to take care of yourself before some serious health issues arise.

Someone who admires you needs a warm shoulder to cry on and a dose of sincere advice. Remember to be a good listener.

Your money instincts are right on target. Invest or play the lottery.

GEMINI

May 21 – June 20

You have many things to do this week, but just can't seem to find the time. Get organized or get help before too much time slips by.

Your luck is about to improve dramatically. Give your partner some credit.

A friend is looking for a shoulder to cry on and you would be wise to steer clear. It will only lead to more grief if you get involved.

CANCER

June 21 – July 22

Someone will try to lead you astray this week. Use common sense and veer off the line a little, but not too far. The color green figures in your fortunes.

Use extra caution when it comes to travel plans in the week ahead. Postpone trips if at all possible.

Someone with an "A," "E" or "O" in their name will be the bearer of good news. Celebrate accordingly.

LEO

July 23 – Aug. 22

Get your chores out of the way as early as possible this week so you'll be free for a surprise invitation this weekend.

Children play key roles. Treat them as much like adults as possible and you'll find that they can be most accommodating.

Travel can be extremely rewarding this week. Even if it is only across town to see an old friend, do it!

VIRGO

Aug. 23 – Sept. 22

You'll have to hustle to take full advantage of the luck coming your way this week. Enter all the contests and sweepstakes you can.

You're in good financial shape now — so why not live a little? Some new clothes and a night on the town would do wonders for your outlook.

The numbers 2, 17 and 26 may lead to some good fortune, so pay attention.

LIBRA

Sept. 23 – Oct. 22

You know what you should do with your life, so steer clear of well-meaning fools and potential con artists and press ahead with your plans, however odd they may seem.

A friend with a money problem will appeal to your sympathy and generosity. Be cautious. A romantic involvement is going to take a U-turn. Spend the weekend thinking things through.

SCORPIO

Oct. 23 – Nov. 21

Travel and the possibility of extra money will be among the exciting opportunities available to you this week. How you react could determine your future happiness.

Keep plugging away at your life and you will achieve the success you strive for.

Someone with love in his eyes is glancing your way. Use your charm. Don't be afraid to flirt.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22 – Dec. 21

Go out and have a little fun this week. Meeting some new people should help dispel the depression that's been creeping up on you.

The color blue is lucky for you. Wear it often and pay attention to those who do.

A tattletale has just spilled the beans to someone you love. Don't wait until you're confronted. You need to do damage control now.

CAPRICORN

Dec. 22 – Jan. 19

Looking good has been fine up to now for your marriage — but this week you'll have to look even better. If you're single, wearing a splash of red or some white will help attract someone you admire.

You inspire tremendous loyalty in your friends and can feel safe in confiding in them and asking for help.

Expect a message with the promise of money.

AQUARIUS

Jan. 20 – Feb. 18

You're in for a big surprise this week if you don't stop playing the fool around the one you love. You're loved, but your bad habit isn't, so lose it.

The numbers 5 and 9 could be lucky or unlucky for you this month. They will touch your life whether for good or bad.

A photo of you taken many years ago will cause some embarrassment.

PISCES

Feb. 19 – Mar. 20

Good luck is on its way this week but you'll have to take full advantage of it.

Don't be afraid to take calculated risks. They can pay off big-time.

A troubled friend or family member needs your advice and lots of it. Don't wait to give your opinion — or it will be too late to do any good.

Avoid animals and children who don't take an immediate shine to you.

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HOT WHEELS toy cars have been clocked at speeds of up to 300 m.p.h. The back panel of a shoe is called its counter. About 25 million of the 40 million pet dogs in the U.S. can do at least one trick — mostly sitting and shaking paws.

That's just a sample of the astonishing trivia that reporters and editors at *Weekly World News* have unearthed while researching all the terrific stories you read in our paper every week. Here's more:

Grilling experts say a cut of beef should be at least one inch thick or it'll dry out when it's grilled or broiled.

- Great Smoky Mountains National Park got about 10 million visitors in 1998 — twice as many as went to the Grand Canyon.
- The last movie of the silent era was *The Four Feathers*, released in 1929.
- Word of the week: *Chinwag* — to chat or gossip.
- Ten percent of frequent fliers say they don't check luggage on airplanes.
- If you add up all the time you're likely to spend on-line on a computer throughout your life, it amounts to almost two continuous years of doing nothing else.
- Pop singer Leslie Gore was just 17 when her record, "It's My Party and I'll Cry If I Want To," hit No. 1 on the *Billboard* chart on June 1, 1963.
- Famed naturalist John James Audubon went broke several times and was tossed in debtor's prison in 1819, and was released only after filing bankruptcy. He decided to forget business and start doing what he loved: Painting birds. He finally made his fortune with his 1838 book, *Birds of America*, which is still a classic.
- Halley's Comet appeared in the sky just before William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066. His victory made him think the comet had been a good omen.
- Diamonds were worn only by men until 1477, when Archduke Maximilian of Austria gave one to Mary of Burgundy as a token of love.
- Ocean scientist Jacques-Yves Cousteau invented the aqualung, which later became the underwater-breathing device used by scuba divers while fighting with the French Resistance during World War II.
- The first camera for regular people was the Brownie, introduced by Eastman Kodak in 1900. It cost $1.
- California has both the lowest and highest points in the continental U.S. The lowest point is Death Valley, at 282 feet below sea level. The highest is Mt. Whitney, 14,491 feet above sea level — which is dwarfed by Alaska's Mt. McKinley, rising to 20,320 feet.
- Blue-chip stocks, the best stocks in the financial world, get that name from the game of poker, in which blue chips are more valuable than red or white ones.
- Scientists have identified 100 different sleep disorders, but the most common one is suffered by people who just cut their own sleep time because they think they're too busy.
- The average person takes in about a ton of food and drink each year.
- Vampire bats must suck about two

Musician Kid Rock is showing us what an "impedicus" is. It's a Latin word for the

"You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result." — Mahatma Gandhi

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TRIVIA

By KATE McCLARE
Correspondent

tablespoons of blood each day, and can slurp up their dinner in about 20 minutes.

● Only eight men were killed during the Battle of Lexington, in America's Revolutionary War.

● Nine U.S. states have a city named Paris: Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia.

● Karl Marx, father of communism, was never in Russia in his life. Marx was born in Germany. He moved to France and then England, where he wrote *The Communist Manifesto* and other famous works.

● English was not the mother tongue of Queen Victoria. Her mother, the daughter of a German duke, spoke German in the home, and Victoria — though she ruled England for 64 years – was never able to speak English perfectly.

Egypt's sexy queen Cleopatra wasn't Egyptian, but was part Macedonian, part Greek and part Iranian.

Supermodel Heidi Klum shows off this $12.5 million jeweled bra at a photo shoot for the Victoria's Secret catalog. The bra has a flawless 90-carat diamond at its center.

PLAY BALL!

Major League Baseball officially opens its 2004 season on April 4. Here are some stats on the Great American Pastime:

● Abner Doubleday is often credited with inventing baseball, but most experts now say the game really began as a variation of the English schoolyard game Rounders. The Doubleday myth was created in 1905 by a "baseball history" commission led by Al Spalding, a major league pitcher who founded the Spalding sporting-goods empire. He wanted to give American roots to the game he loved, so the commission came up with the story that Doubleday, a Civil War hero, had created it.

● Pro baseball once was only the National League. Formed in 1876, it had eight cities represented: Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Louisville and Hartford.

● The American League was founded in 1900 by Byron Johnson and Charles Comiskey, who put it in competition against the National League in 1901. It had teams in Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Baltimore and Washington.

● The first ballpark to offer night baseball was Crosley Field in Cincinnati, on May 24, 1935. President Franklin D. Roosevelt turned on the lights with a remote switch in Washington. The home-team Cincinnati Reds beat the Philadelphia Phillies in that game, 2 to 1.

● Babe Ruth hit the first of 714 career home runs on May 6, 1915, for the Boston Red Sox. The record stood until 1974, when Hank Aaron surpassed it with the Atlanta Braves. Aaron went on to slam a total 755 career home runs, a

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PONY EXPRESS LETTER ARRIVES – 144 YEARS LATE!

By TED CANNADY
Correspondent

Moth-eaten message is yellow and crumbly – but still legible

READING the ancient love note brings tears of joy to Mary Kelmer, who says it's more than just a letter — it's her roots.

THE fastest letter ever delivered by the Pony Express took seven days and 17 hours to make the company's start-to-finish trip from St. Joseph, Mo., to Sacramento, Calif., 2,000 miles away.

The slowest took 144 years — it arrived just days ago!

"It's bizarre but I'm thrilled to have it," says Mary Kelmer, 27, of St. Joseph.

"The letter is yellowed and a little crumbly but it's still legible and tells a wonderful story.

"My great-great-great-grandfather sent it to my great-great-great-grandmother while he was in Sacramento on business, and she was still back in St. Joseph waiting for him to return.

"It's very touching — I actually wept while reading it. Now if I can just find out where it's been all this time, a very strange mystery will be solved.

"All I can tell you is that I found it at my doorstep early one morning when I stepped outside to get my morning paper. It was almost as if whoever put it there didn't think it was all that special.

"The wind could have blown it away, or the cat might have gotten son intrigued by the lost-and-found letter that attorney Alexander Jeremiah Kelmer posted to wife Abigail Elizabeth on April 17, 1860 — a letter he might reasonably have expected to arrive well before the end of the month . . . that same year.

A Pony Express historian says the two-page message — which bears authentic Pony Express time and acceptance stamps — may provide important insights into the service that failed as a business but still captures the imaginations of Americans everywhere.

"We've all heard of the U.S. Postal Service delivering postcards and letters from the 1940s and 1950s but this goes way beyond that," explains historian Phil Markins, of Sacramento.

"The postal service has been in continuous operation all these years and still uses many of the buildings and facilities that accepted mail 60 and 70 years ago. So it's not hard to imagine a letter that was shoved behind a filing cabinet in 1951 might turn up today if those boxes are moved.

"But the Pony Express is different. It had nothing to do with the postal service — and it lasted for only a couple of years, from April of 1860 to October of 1861.

"That means this letter has been — well, where HAS it been?

"And who in the world delivered it? I'd give anything to know."

Amazingly, Kelmer's address is

though their four-room house was razed in 1922 to make way for the nine-room frame home she still lives in today.

She even has an old photo of her ancestors that she keeps on the mantle in her living room.

"I always thought they looked very much in love, and this letter proves it," she says. "A lot of what's in there is intensely personal and private, but I can tell you that my great-great-great-grandfather starts it off, 'My Dearest, Sweetest Abigail,' and he ends it with, 'Yours in love until the stars drop from the sky.'

"It's lovely, isn't it? People just don't write love letters like that anymore."

Kelmer has agreed to let historian Markins and other experts study the letter in the hope that they can find a clue to its whereabouts for all the years it was missing.

"And then I'm going to have it professionally mounted in a special archival frame so that it won't deteriorate," she says. "I might even donate it to the Pony Express Museum here in St. Joseph, because if it weren't for the Pony Express, I never would have seen it.

PONY EXPRESS-IONS

- **The Pony Express lasted only about 18½ months in the United States, during the years 1860 and 1861.**
- **183 men are known to have ridden for the Pony Express during its operation. They made about $100 per month.**
- **Ad in California newspaper read: "Wanted. Young, skinny, wiry fellows. Not over 18. Must be expert riders. Willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred." Most riders actually were around 20. The youngest was 11.**

NEWS 'TOONS

"They cancelled the rain dance. We need to work the tables at the casino today."

"This was an early girlfriend of Daddy's before he was smart."

"Too much violence!"

TOURIST GROWS

By MIKE FOSTER/*Correspondent*

CHICKEN MAN? Aaron Breckley broke out in a bizarre reaction to bird flu, growing feathers

FOR HARD-LUCK Aaron Breckley, life is really for the birds. The Australian poultry farmer began growing feathers after contracting Asian bird flu during a recent visit to Thailand!

"My life has become a nightmare," says the 38-year-old father of three. "People look at me as if I'm some sort of freak or monster.

"Strangers come up to me and ask all sorts of stupid questions, like, 'Do you lay eggs?' Even a fool should know that roosters don't lay eggs."

The 167 white feathers, which cover Breckley's face, chest, back, arms and legs, strikingly resemble those of a chicken — the bird from which it's believed he picked up the disease.

Baffled doctors call the case both unique and disturbing.

"We've known for some time that H591, the strain of avian influenza virus that causes the disease in chickens, can jump the species barrier and infect humans," says Dr. Rahadhon Wongawan, an expert with the World Health Organization.

"But the news that this microorganism can apparently pass along traits from a previous host is earth-shaking. Mr. Breckley's DNA has been altered — and we don't know if the change is complete.

"The patient's toes show signs of beginning to take on the characteristic claw-like appearance of a fowl."

The case may help to confirm a controversial new theory about human evolution.

"One of the most puzzling findings to come out of the human genome project was that out of our thousands of genes, about 200 are identical to those of microbes," Dr. Wongawan says.

"A theory that has surfaced to explain this odd fact is that in the

Over 80 million chickens destroyed as H591 strain of avian influenza

FEATHERS AFTER CONTRACTING BIRD FLU!

remote past, microbes transferred some of their genetic material into human cells.

"Mr. Breckley's case not only supports this idea, it suggests that it's possible for microbes to pick up pieces of DNA from one host and pass them along to the next, like bees pollinating flowers."

The latest outbreak of bird flu has had a devastating effect over the past year. At least 80 million chickens have been destroyed after being found with the disease, various strains of which have struck 10 Asian nations and the United States. Hundreds of people worldwide have become sick and scores have died.

Breckley was visiting chicken farms in northeastern Chaiyaphum province in search of better egg-laying hens to add to his stock at home. It is believed he contracted the disease while handling birds he was considering buying.

"After returning to Australia, I was sick for a week in December and had a terrible fever, but then I felt better and I thought the whole thing was over," he recalls.

"Then one morning my wife told me in a disgusted voice that I needed to take a bath because I had a feather stuck to my back. I tried to pull if off and I realized it was growing out of my flesh.

"I plucked it out. But by the next day, there were a half-dozen more feathers on my back and some on my forearms too."

At first, Breckley tried to ignore the transformation, plucking the feathers as they appeared. But friends and acquaintances began to notice feathers he'd missed.

"I quickly became the butt of jokes," he says. "One guy told me he had a nice chick he wanted to introduce me to — then he brought a hen out from behind his back."

As Breckley took on an increasingly fowl-like appearance, his neighbors began to shun him.

When health workers tried to explain to locals that Breckley's condition resulted from a disease, that did little to dispel fears. Many neighbors now worry that he'll spread the contagion and "turn us all into chickens too."

One 45-year-old neighbor makes no bones about the fact that Breckley is no longer welcome.

"He ought to be tarred and feathered and run out of town," he says. "Actually, our work is already half

flu can't be passed from one human to another, according to a reassuring study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Researchers also say that panic-stricken folks who've stopped eating chicken to avoid "ending up like Breckley" are overreacting.

"There is no evidence that any human cases of avian influenza have been acquired by eating poultry," Dr. Wongawan says.

Doctors are searching for a cure for the bird man, but warn Breckley it may a while before he's normal again — if ever.

"There's not another case like this in medical history," notes Dr. Wongawan. "We don't really know how to begin.

OSAMA SNIFFS CAMEL DUNG!

CIA SLEUTHS may have sniffed out the source of crazed mass murderer Osama Bin Laden's madness — he and many of his bloodthirsty buddies are addicted to sniffing camel dung!

Analysts say that when Osama was a teen in Saudi Arabia, dung-sniffing as a cheap and easily available high was a widespread youth craze. And records show that Bin Laden, the spoiled-rotten son of a mega-rich Saudi tycoon, was disciplined at this exclusive private school on more than one occasion for indulging in the revolting habit.

Most of Osama's pals outgrew the juvenile behavior, sobering up and becoming staid members of the business world. But weak-willed "dung head" Bin Laden was never able to get the camel-poop monkey off his back.

"Informants say that to this day, Osama can't make a move without taking a hit of camel dung fumes," says a CIA source. "He's convinced his underlings this 'opens up the doorways of perception' and he's gotten a lot of them hooked too."

Although medical experts consider short-term, moderate camel-dung sniffing to be relatively harmless, long-term use has been linked to memory loss, impulse-control difficulty and increased aggression in adolescent boys, according to one Saudi health department study.

MAN THINKS HE'S MADE OF GLASS!

A 35-YEAR-OLD bank manager suffers from one of the strangest emotional disorders known to man — he thinks he's made of glass.

"Rather than face up to his own inadequacies, the patient sees himself as being made of cheap glass and he avoids human contact that might cause him to shatter," says Dr. Klaus Moser, of Salzburg, Austria.

"In fact, he is consumed with self-hatred, self-doubt and overpowering feelings of helplessness."

The psychiatrist says he'd like to help Peter Kruger, "but that's not possible because his insurance doesn't cover mental illness.

"It's like I told his wife, 'If I help

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS APRIL

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IN THIS ISSUE

CHRIST'S FORGOTTEN 13th APOSTLE WAS AN IDIOT!

He heckled Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount – and called Him a lousy carpenter

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